

THE TIMES Tomorrow

A survival guide for the urban cyclist features in tomorrow's edition of *Saturday*, the eight-page section that provides the best weekend guide to what is happening in the arts, entertainment, and leisure.

One of the most famous characters in poetry was once described thus:

*Giliplus erat municeps
Honestus aestimatus*

He was also to be immortalized in Chinese, Persian and the dialect of Orkney. Who is he? Latin scholars will know, of course, but they and others will learn much more about the history of this extraordinary character in *The Times* tomorrow.

Report for work, Walesa told

Mr Lech Walesa, the former Solidarity leader, has been ordered to report to the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk to be given a job, according to informed sources in Gdansk. The move comes after a fortnight during which he has had several brushes with the authorities.

Solidarity harassment, page 7

Iran blamed for Baghdad bombs

Iraq blamed Iran for two car bomb explosions in central Baghdad yesterday which killed and wounded a number of people. No casualty details were given. An Iraqi official said the attacks would be avenged.

Octopus sell-out

City institutions rushed to buy shares in Mr Paul Hamlyn's Octopus Publishing Group. Application lists closed after a token one minute and the issue, by public tender, could be 18 times oversubscribed. Page 17

Norfolk honour

The Duke of Norfolk, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewis and Lord Richardson of Dumfries have been appointed Knights Companion of the Order of the Garter. Buckingham Palace has announced.

CBE man dead

Mr George Perry, a former senior executive of General Motors in Britain who was awarded the CBE in 1976 for furthering British-American relations, has been found murdered in a New York lake.

Dublin choice

Dr Colin O'Halloran, a biochemist and president of University College, Galway, has been appointed chairman of the Forum For A New Ireland which convenes on May 30.

£2m air-claims

The full set of eight members of the Swansea Skydivers Club died in a "copter crash at a West German air show are to sue Boeing, the aircraft manufacturer, for £2m each.

Prime plea fails

Geoffrey Prime, the self-confessed spy for the Russians, was refused leave to appeal against his 38-year sentence for espionage and assault on girls. Page 3

Carrington gibe

Calling for a new dialogue with Moscow, Lord Carrington, former Foreign Secretary, derided the silent war of nerves broken only by bursts of "megaphone diplomacy". Page 9

Israel divided

The mounting toll of Israeli casualties in Lebanon has prompted a minority in the Begin Cabinet to press for a partial troop withdrawal.

Back page

Off the mark

First-class cricket began at Cambridge where the University are playing Glamorgan. Fixtures for the season, which includes the Prudential World Cup, appear on page 23.

Leader page 13

Letters: On probation pay, from Mr David Mellor; appeals, from Mr Ludovic Kennedy; CND, from Mgr Bruce Kent.

Leading articles: Lord Carrington's speech; Argentine widows, Farm prices

Features, pages 10, 11, 12

The president of the World Bank defends aid to the Third World: foiling the KGB, why any bid for Sotheby's fading bloom of the desert; the many lives of Ian Tamm

China: Four-page Special Report on a country seeking political stability and higher living standards

France leads call for new monetary system

From Bailey Morris, Washington

France has launched a strong international campaign to persuade Western nations to agree to sweeping reforms of the international monetary system.

These would be made at a special conference, which the Mitterrand government is prepared to host next year and which, according to diplomatic sources in Washington yesterday, could replace next year's economic summit meeting of the seven leading Western powers.

The proposal for a conference like that at Bretton Woods in 1944 which set up the International Monetary Fund will be discussed at this year's summit in Williamsburg, Virginia, next month.

M-Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, and other leading officials in the Mitterrand government, have urged European countries to put pressure on the Reagan Administration to agree to the

French officials have also asked leaders of developing countries to make similar demands at September's joint annual meeting of the World Bank and the IMF.

Japan is mounting equally strong if more discreet pressure on the United States for reform. Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister will propose at Williamsburg a comprehensive policy to "revitalize the world economy, including plans to stabilize international exchange and interest rates as its first priority".

He said the growing concern which is being expressed over the debt crisis and the fragility of the world recovery is almost certain to turn the Williamsburg summit into a more explosive conference than the Reagan Administration had anticipated.

Part of the concern among European officials continues to be generated by the upward movement of the dollar, which is drawing badly-needed capital out of Europe.

Western head of state and diplomats, officials want the Reagan Administration to reverse its rigid policy of non-intervention to a more accommodating policy of limited intervention to control the dollar.

Mr Cheysson, in meetings with finance and foreign ministers, has stated strongly his belief that the western alliance could not survive and that meaningful world recovery could not take place without

Mr Haruo Mayekawa, Governor of the Bank of Japan, told a conference of leading world bankers in Tokyo yesterday that the floating exchange rate system "has not come up to expectations". He blamed trade frictions on volatile and illogical exchange rates and called for a systematic investigation of ways to achieve stability.

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spent right up to their permitted cash ceilings.

But the 1982-83 public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) totalled £9,200m, nearly £2,000m more than the £7,500m predicted in the official figures released yesterday. The size of the overshoot, which took the City by surprise, suggests a doubt on whether the Government can hold to its £8,000m borrowing target for the coming financial year.

But share prices soared on a wave of euphoria over economic prospects, after an optimistic assessment of the business outlook from Mr John Harvey-Jones, chairman of ICI Britain's leading chemicals company regarded as a sensitive barometer of Britain's industrial climate.

The FT index jumped 13.8 to 692.0, its biggest one-day rise for some weeks, after equalising its previous record high of 695.5 earlier in the day.

The higher-than-expected public borrowing was almost entirely due to an unusually large last-minute surge in spending by government departments and local authorities at the end of the financial year. This eliminated practically all the underspend on planned budgets the Treasury predicted in the Budget, as departments

Market report, page 16

British airways

"Improved profitability"

PAN AM

Forward bookings up

TWA

More buoyant market

British Caledonian

It has stopped raining

Signs that world airline slump may be ending

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Strong traffic growth across the Atlantic and on other world airline routes is raising hopes that the five-year airline slump, the worst in aviation history, may at last be drawing to a close.

Traffic on many routes increased considerably last month and forward bookings look even better, with summer traffic predicted to be up to 50 per cent higher than last year.

The growth on the Atlantic route is stimulating new competitive initiatives from the airlines, including the prospective entry of the People's Express from the United States with its £59 London-New York

single fare. TWA may respond with a 270 Apex return.

British Caledonian said yesterday that traffic in March on its worldwide route network was 7.5 per cent up on the same month last year and forward bookings about 1.5 per cent up.

Advance bookings across the Atlantic were 25 per cent up, West Africa 40 per cent and Hong Kong 50 per cent. Mr Colm Smith, the finance director, said: "It has stopped raining but we are still waiting for the sunshine".

Scandinavian Airlines Systems said traffic so far this year was 8 per cent up, with "humble growth" to North America and the Far East. Latin American

routes were also improving. "We certainly feel the slump is coming to an end."

Pan American reported a 2 per cent growth in March with forward bookings "several points up and much heavier than we were predicting around Christmas".

Eastbound traffic across the Atlantic was "very strong" with a good dollar exchange rate, but westbound bookings were also good, with doubled jumbo flights to Florida this weekend and some economy flights already booked.

Cathay Pacific reported a slight rise in traffic generally, with routes to Hong Kong up 11 per cent this year.

Air France described the market as "encouraging", although predicting an end to the slump, a spokesman said, "but historically airlines have been

Alliance defence pact split by Owen

By Anthony Bevins

Political Correspondent

Mr David Owen, deputy parliamentary leader of the Social Democratic Party, last night blew open the Liberal-SDP Alliance's tentative and delicate peace pact on the future of the Polaris missile system.

It is understood that the two parties have been working towards an agreement, a form of words for electoral consumption, which would put the question of Polaris on the table at the Geneva disarmament talks. The agreement would go no further; neglecting to mention what would happen if the Geneva talks failed to produce adequate Soviet concessions.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said last December that he was against the independent use of Polaris, that the submarine-launched system should be assigned to the control of Nato, and that the two parties would have to consider how long they would be willing to maintain finance for the submarines.

But Dr Owen, the Social Democrats' defence spokesman, said in a speech in Bath last night: "Britain needs a minimum deterrent. That means retaining Polaris unless there have been deep cuts in strategic weapons in the strategic arms limitation talks."

He then added: "It cannot be reiterated too strongly that extending Polaris to the end of the century and being ready if need be to put cruise missiles into nuclear-powered submarines is a perfectly feasible way of maintaining a minimum deterrent for Britain".

The report about an inquiry by the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee appeared as the front page lead on Monday under the headline, "Thatcher to be told Fortress Falklands is untenable".

The unions and the workers on strike came under heavy attack from the Government and business leaders after the collapse of the peace talks.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, told the Commons that taxpayers had put "a great deal of faith in the people who work at BL. I hope those workers will not return that faith by striking themselves and many other people out of jobs."

Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, accused the Cowley workers of committing "industrial suicide".

He told businessmen in Cambridge: "We still have lemmings on the shop floor in the motor industry who are prepared to follow their union leadership over the nearest cliff in their persistence that having a job is a birthright whatever it costs the rest of us".

But Mr Evans and Mr Musgrave, who were appearing on the BBC television programme *Nationwide* last night, agreed that the situation at Cowley was "very serious indeed". BL said that it would await the outcome of today's mass meeting before deciding on future action.

But it was understood that the company's threat to dismiss workers who did not respond to a return to work call from the

Continued on back page, col 4

Several Labour MPs opposed the motion. Mr Jeffrey Rooker, Labour MP for Birmingham Perry Barr, asked what purpose would be served by a reference to the committee.

The journalist in question, if he was worthy of his trade, would not divulge his source. Why was *The Times* singled out? Other reports had appeared in *The Guardian* and *The Scotsman*, but the crime of *The Times* was prominence.

But she declined the Liberal leader's invitation to announce the date of the general election, and said: "Let me make it perfectly clear that when I decide to have an election the matter will be announced in the usual way, and until then, in spite of all provocation, I shall not cut out any options."

The Prime Minister's colleagues, who met her in Cabinet

Continued on back page, col 3

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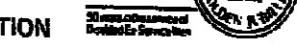
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BRITISH LIMBLESS

EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION



Payout for widow of banker

The family of Sir Trevor Dawson, the City banker who killed himself to provide money for his wife to care for their handicapped son, will receive the money from his life insurance policies.

Lady Dawson stood to receive £137,500 from four insurance policies on her husband's life. The Phoenix Assurance Company, from whom the bulk of the money is payable, has agreed to honour the claims.

Sir Trevor, aged 51, killed himself just before one of his policies expired on February 15 last year. Phoenix said: "We normally expect to pay if the life assured dies by suicide after one year of taking out the policy. But there can be certain circumstances, such as non-disclosure of information, which could invalidate the claim."

Since the Suicide Act, 1961, after which suicide was no longer a crime, insurance companies have been less able to defend claims on a life insurance policy where the person has committed suicide. But even before the Act, a suicide verdict was sometimes avoided by the inquest as a way round invalidating a claim.

Surgeon's costly marriage

A surgeon who exchanged wives with a solicitor friend but lived with his new wife for only a month four years ago and since then had paid more than £20,000 maintenance was allowed an appeal in the High Court Family Division yesterday.

Mr Justice Ewbank ruled that the surgeon should continue to pay £500 a month until three months after his wife's divorce decree had been made absolute and a lump sum of £8,000 to end his maintenance obligations.

Law Report, page 21

New Yorkshire police chief

Mr Colin Sampson, deputy chief constable of West Yorkshire, is to be the new chief constable, it was announced yesterday.

Mr Sampson, aged 53, will take over from Mr Ronald Gregory, who retires on June 5. Mr Sampson, who was formerly deputy chief constable of Nottinghamshire, and who has been commended three times, was chosen from a short-list of five.

Mother can stay in UK

Ms Sarah Jabaar, a South African with three children, will be allowed to remain in Britain for compassionate reasons, the Home Office announced yesterday.

Mrs Jabaar, aged 43, who lives in Cwmbran, Gwent, came to Britain five years ago. Her former husband, who had a work permit, later moved to the United States where he divorced her. More than 10,000 people had signed a petition against her deportation.

Pollen forecast service launched

A national daily pollen forecasting service to help Britain's estimated six million hay fever sufferers was launched yesterday.

The National Pollen and Hay Fever Bureau, sponsored by Fisons, will provide forecasts from the end of next month or early June, depending on the weather.

Duchess 'better'

The Duchess of Kent was said to be making good progress at the King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers yesterday after an operation to remove an ovarian cyst on Wednesday. She is expected to be discharged in about a week.

Fund private schools, state urged

By Rupert Morris

State financial support for private schools to increase their diversity and make them available to more people is urged today in a booklet published by the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS).

Mr Peter Mason, former High Master of Manchester Grammar School, points out that private schools in Britain cater for a very low percentage of the school population compared with other European countries.

Private schools in January, 1981, educated about 6 per cent of the school population in England and Wales and only 3.4 per cent in Scotland, according to government figures, while about 25 per cent of students in higher education came from private schools.

Mr Mason quotes a 1978 regional survey by ISIS, which

Labour aims to woo craft workers in £2.5m election drive

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Labour Party is to "target" its electoral message on social groups and geographical areas in its £2.5m general election campaign.

Privately conducted research has shown that its traditional support among low-paid manual workers and the unemployed, and among many professional people, is holding up well. But doubts remain about the voting intentions of skilled workers.

A surge of support is detected among women, and that is attributed, in part at least, to the party's stand against nuclear weapons. Improved rights for women will also be a key plank in the campaign.

Labour Party chiefs regard the Conservatives' lead in the opinion polls, variously estimated at between 6 and 11 per cent, as more vulnerable than first impressions would suggest. They predict that the gap could be closed quite sharply between now and polling day.

Among craft workers, however, it is conceded, that substantial effort will be required to win back support lost to Mrs Margaret Thatcher in the 1979 election.

That is particularly true in areas such as the West Midlands, where there are a large number of marginal seats. The skilled workers' vote has become more volatile, and cannot

be taken for granted any more, it is admitted.

However, by presenting a serious image to the voter, arguing the case for an alternative economic strategy to the monetarist policies of the Thatcher administration, the party's tacticians think they can bridge the credibility gap evident in public scepticism of Labour's nostrums.

The party's budgeting for £2.5m in the campaign has been

most of what will come from the unions. Of that, about £750,000 has been generated, including £240,000 from the National Union of Mineworkers.

Mr James Mortimer,

Labour's general secretary, believes that the Conservatives will have at least five times the amount of money with which to fight the election. It is deemed that Labour cannot compete in that spending league.

Mr Michael Foot yesterday insisted that egalitarianism remained a central theme of Labour Party policy. (Our Political Correspondent)

In a campaign message to Labour workers, published in *Labour Weekly*, he said: "There can be no socialism without democracy and there can be no proper democracy without the egalitarianism of socialism. The Labour Party would deserve to

The Liberal-Social Democratic Party Alliance has almost completed discussions on its joint programme for government. The Alliance's manifesto will be ready for publication within days if Mrs Thatcher decides immediately to call a general election (our political reporter writes).

MacGregor offers a new line

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, yesterday delivered a spirited defence of his plan to sell Scottish-made steel to the United States. If the deal was successful, the big Ravenscraig plant in Motherwell would have a more secure future than any other plant in the corporation.

At the same time, Mr MacGregor revived hopes of creating a new Scottish steel industry centred on the Hunterston ore terminal in Ayrshire which, with its two direct reduction ore plants, cost about £160m in the 1970s but which has been idle because of the high cost of natural gas.

Mr MacGregor was speaking during a visit to a BSC plant at Glen Garnock in north Ayrshire, now being operated as an anchor chain manufacturing operation jointly with a Spanish company. His comments were immediately interpreted by union officials as an attempt to

defuse the growing opposition to his plan to form a joint venture with the US Steel Corporation.

The American deal, which could be concluded in the next few weeks given approval by Mrs Margaret Thatcher and President Reagan, involves the sale of up to £1,000m of Ravenscraig steel during the next three years to US Steel's Fairless works in Pennsylvania.

Now BSC scientists are working on a method of fueling the new plant with coal instead of gas. Mr MacGregor, chairman-elect of the National Coal Board, said: "Within the decade there may be steel plants at Hunterston with the prospect of a very competitive future because they will use a process which will be a world beater. We will use Scottish coal at the plants - I have made that a condition."

Mr Clive Lewis, the iron and steel trades Confederation's Scottish secretary, later described the plan as "a ploy which needed to be treated with the greatest suspicion".

Two cleared of Liverpool riot charges

A man, his son and a youth aged 16, were cleared yesterday of inciting a riot in a Liverpool tenement block last summer.

The youth was convicted of fighting and making an affray, however, after the jury at Liverpool Crown Court spent a total of four and a half hours considering verdicts.

The allegations were made on Wednesday by Mr Neville Glick, head of an introductions agency in Harrogate, who is suing Mr Patterson and his magazine, *Select*, for libel damages.

Mr Glick, aged 50, of Leeds, claims that a letter in the magazine saying that a member of his bureau had been introduced to a non-member carried a suggestion that the organization was a front for an escort or call-girl agency.

Mr Patterson, Singles Scene Ltd, his company, and Pindar Print Ltd, printers, deny libel, contending that the words complained of were true in substance and fact and were fair comment on a matter of public interest.

The hearing continues today.

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Dating agency head denies porn allegations

Mr Patterson told Mr Justice

Bristol and the jury that the suggestion that he put on a sex tape was untrue. He added that his magazine, aimed at single people, had called for letters about readers' experiences of friendship agencies after AMF and the Office of Fair Trading had expressed disquiet about the way some had to place a bar on its dismant-

ment.

Mr Patterson denied that the proposed US deal, which could cost the BSC £100m, would guarantee the majority of jobs at Ravenscraig for the next six years.

The Hunterston plant, which Mr MacGregor has always supported and at one stage had to place a bar on its dismant-

ment.

Mr MacGregor said that the proposed US deal, which could cost the BSC £100m, would guarantee the majority of jobs at Ravenscraig for the next six years.

The suggestion that he advertised the business in pornographic magazines was also "totally untrue", he said.

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Mother and girls die in blaze

Mrs Lorraine Houston (below), and her daughter

Tracy Houston, aged five (top) and Cheryl Houston, aged seven, died yesterday as fire swept through the top of their home in Winsford, Cheshire. The bodies of all three were found on the first floor.

Mr Colin Wilde, aged 30, who was living with Mrs Houston, and Michael Houston, her son aged three, escaped by jumping from a window. The boy was in a stable condition in Leighton Hospital, Crewe. The condition of Mr Wilde, who suffered serious burns, was said to be fair.

A fire investigation team, police and forensic science experts examined the building but police and fire crews said there was no reason to suspect arson.

The council houses on the estate, which are almost 20 years old, have internal walls built largely of plasterboard and filled with a type of compressed straw building material.

Mr Lawton, a consultant, who was appointed head-boy by Mr Frank Fisher, the former headmaster of Wellington, who now chairs the public schools' campaign, received an ISIS circular enclosed with a letter to old boys from Dr David Newsome, Wellington's present headmaster. Entitled "Freedom is Under Fire", it invited old boys to defend independent schools by joining the ISIS Association of Supporters



Peter Ustinov (left) celebrating the publication of his book *My Russia* with Joan Greenwood and Robert Morley at the Foyles Literary Lunch held at the Dorchester, London, yesterday.

Union says shipbuilders face conflict

By Barrie Clement Labour Reporter

Conflict is now inevitable in the shipbuilding industry according to Mr George Arnold, chief negotiator for the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. He said yesterday, that faced with a demand for 7,000 more redundancies, the men were in a militant mood.

"I have never seen such fervour among our members. There is bound to be trouble if there is no relaxation in the policies being pursued by British Shipbuilders (BS)."

He said the men were not prepared to accept the job losses or the state corporation's intention not to offer a pay rise this year. "The situation was serious, it is now critical."

During negotiations BS treated from its original demand for 9,000 job losses to 7,000. Earlier this year it reduced manpower through 1,000 voluntary redundancies.

The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, of which the AUEW is a prominent member, which has been in talks with Sir Robert Atkinson, the chairman of BS, and has been told that a corporate plan was about to be submitted to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Mr Arnold added: "We will not show it to us and we feel that if anybody should know about it is us."

He said: "It is to be reconvened May 3. It is expected that it may lead to the employers being threatened with industrial action. The unions' shipbuilding negotiating committee has a firm policy that there should be no compulsory redundancies in

the industry.

At the annual conference of the engineering section of AUEW yesterday, Mr David Cooper, a delegate from the Govan yard in the Clyde, said: "We are quite prepared to carry out a policy of occupation now if we get support from other yards." But support for militant action from the more prosperous yards such as Barrow, is doubtful.

● The National Union of Blast

Furnace men has agreed in principle to merge with the Amalgamated Union of Engineering workers, Britain's second biggest union.

The amalgamation of the union's 7,000 members will take the AUEW's membership back to more than one million and boost its confidence in the present merger negotiations with other smaller unions to achieve a strong united organization from the present loose federation.

The woman takes plumbing calls for a plumbing service and earns £10.08 for a non-stop working week. She prefers to remain anonymous for fear of losing her employment, on which she depends to supplement her invalidity benefit.

Her situation has emerged during the unit's "Low Pay Unit" delegate meeting on May 3. It is expected that it may lead to the employers being threatened with industrial action. The unions' shipbuilding negotiating committee has a firm policy that there should be no compulsory redundancies in the industry.

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the engineering section of AUEW yesterday, Mr David Cooper, a delegate from the Govan yard in the Clyde, said: "We are quite prepared to carry out a policy of occupation now if we get support from other yards." But support for militant action from the more prosperous yards such as Barrow, is doubtful.

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● Elizabeth Bissett, the unit's

Supergrass 'took drugs overdose'

From Richard Ford, Belfast

An alleged Provisional IRA "supergrass" took an overdose of drugs while on a holiday with his family and police guards in Cyprus.

Mrs Gilmour says that after fleeing from the city last August, when her husband allegedly gave information leading to the arrest and charging of 71 republicans, they lived in Ipswich and Newcastle upon Tyne.

But she grew disillusioned with her life and decided to leave their hideout. Her husband, aged 23, is remaining in protective custody until he has given evidence in a forthcoming trial.

The police forced open the bedroom door of Raymond and Lorraine Gilmour's hotel room to find he had swallowed tablets prescribed for his wife's nervous tension.

But she grew disillusioned with her life and decided to leave their hideout. Her husband, aged 23, is remaining in protective custody until he has given evidence in a forthcoming trial.

An off-duty Royal Ulster Constabulary inspector escaped death yesterday when Provisional IRA gunmen ambushed his car in Londonderry.

At present the Meteorological Office uses a manual method of thunderstorm detection. It is based on a network of observers who scan the sky once an hour, during daytime, with a detector. Their bearings are plotted by hand to give the location of lightning flashes. This limited technique misses out most thunderstorms.

The new Arrival Time Difference (ATD) computer system, which is due to come into operation next year, can process 350 lightning strikes an hour. That should reveal the location of most thunderstorms within an area stretching from the Arctic Ocean to North Africa and from Russia to the mid-Atlantic. Other countries will share the information through the World Meteorological Organization network.

The new ATD lightning system will supplement weather radar and satellite observations of potential storms.

Prime's appeal against 'sentence without hope' for spying rejected

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The 38-year jail sentence on Geoffrey Prime, who spied for the Soviet Union was upheld by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Refusing an application for leave to appeal against the sentence, Lord Justice Lawton said Prime had taken "the Queen's shilling both as a corporal in the RAF and the Government's intelligence service and then sold her, her enemies, in times of war such conduct would have merited the death penalty."

In peacetime the nearest penalty was a long prison sentence: At least two of the counts under the Official Secrets Act which Prime admitted to were, Lord Lawton said, acts of treachery.

During a hearing which went into camera for almost an hour at one point Mr George Carman, QC, for Prime, told the court that the sentences passed last November amounted to "a sentence without hope". He was given 35 years for espionage and three years for offences against young girls.

Prime, aged 44, was sentenced by the Lord Chief Justice after admitting spying for the Russians for 14 years including a period working as a linguist at the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham. The espionage came to light after investigations into the sexual offences.

Prime confessed to his wife on the assaults on girls and the

spying. He gave himself up for the assault and his wife, Rona, went to the police about the espionage.

Mr Carman said that Prime would be 82 if he served his full sentence. The sentence was the longest determinate imposed on a man of his age and the longest determinate sentence imposed on any defendant in the past 20 years.

Raising 11 points in favour of the application, Mr Carman asked the court to note that Prime has been interviewed 13 times, lasting 39 hours, by MI5 since his conviction. Mr Carman said Prime was ready to continue to help MI5 and more interviews were likely.

His original concession to the police must, Mr Carman said, "have been of enormous value to the security authorities". The statement had made the seven counts against Prime possible.

Mr Carman said medical evidence showed that Prime had an obsessive and abnormal personality and was not the type of person to be considered in the light of two basic factors of sentencing which were the deterrent value and retribution. Lord Lawton said retribution was out of favour with criminologists but it meant a situation where the offence was so grave that the sentence had to reflect "the abhorrence by right-minded members of the public".

Lord Lawton said the argument about an incentive was appreciated by the court but "in the end the scales have to come down on the side of deterrence. It is much better that spying should never start than that the spies should subsequently confess."

Scraping the breeches buoy, said to be out of date, charges for those rescued should also be considered, according to the report.

Although the report acknowledges that the part-timers are paid only "very modest rates" of £1.69 an hour, savings of £60,000 a year are expected. Cutting a third of rescue centres management teams would save another £240,000 annually. The policy of reducing visual watches should be continued and the 21 centres remaining after the three closures should be reviewed every two years.

The Rayner conclusions were condemned yesterday by Mr John Prescott, Labour MP for Hull, East, who has tabled a Commons motion deplored by the service.

Captain Eric Kemp, secretary of the St Ives lifeboat and the Trinity House pilot for Mount's Bay, Cornwall, where the Penlee lifeboat operates, yesterday described the proposals as disastrous and predicted they would lead to lives being lost.

Captain Kemp said that if the coastguards were withdrawn "we would have to find some voluntary way of replacing them".

Proposals to cut coastguard service and consider levying charges on people who are rescued drew reactions of anger and outrage from representatives of merchant seamen, lifeboatmen and coastguards yesterday.

Mr Eric Nevin, general secretary of the Merchant Navy and Air Line Officers Association, the largest of the seafarers' organizations, described the idea of charging for rescues as diabolical. The Civil Service Union, which represents all uniformed coastguards, promised to resist the proposals "with all the strength we can muster".

The recommendations are understood to be contained in the forthcoming report on the coastguard service from Lord Rayner's team on Civil Service efficiency. The leak of the report to *The Guardian*, has coincided with strong criticism at the Penlee lifeboat inquiry of the damage done to the service by reorganization.

The report is said to propose the dismissal of 1,200 part-time auxiliary coastguards, 30 per cent of them total; closing three centres at Moray, Shoreham and Tees and making several full-time staff redundant; and

scrapping the breeches buoy, said to be out of date. Charges for those rescued should also be considered, according to the report.

Although the report acknowledges that the part-timers are paid only "very modest rates" of £1.69 an hour, savings of £60,000 a year are expected. Cutting a third of rescue centres management teams would save another £240,000 annually. The policy of reducing visual watches should be continued and the 21 centres remaining after the three closures should be reviewed every two years.

The Rayner conclusions were condemned yesterday by Mr John Prescott, Labour MP for Hull, East, who has tabled a Commons motion deplored by the service.

Captain Eric Kemp, secretary of the St Ives lifeboat and the Trinity House pilot for Mount's Bay, Cornwall, where the Penlee lifeboat operates, yesterday described the proposals as disastrous and predicted they would lead to lives being lost.

Captain Kemp said that if the coastguards were withdrawn "we would have to find some voluntary way of replacing them".

Rescue charges idea condemned

By David Nicholson-Lord

together with eight people they were trying to save from the coaster Union Star in hurricane force winds six days before Christmas in 1981.

Lieutenant-Commander Fetherston-Dilke, said: "It is perfectly true to say that from me down to the newest joined coastguard, nobody's confidence is increased by periodic reviews."

"We barely have time to recover from one review before we appear to be into the next. That is the factor which I think does not help morale because it leads to uncertainty among both regulars and auxiliaries about what government policy will be in the future."

Apart from the 1978 reorganization, there were reviews in 1970, 1974, 1979 and 1982, and another review was due in two years, he said.

Eight lifeboatmen, all from Mousehole, Cornwall, died

in the Penlee lifeboat disaster that constant reviews of the service were affecting the morale of his men. Lieutenant-Commander Tim Fetherstone-Dilke, said: "It is perfectly true to say that from me down to the newest joined coastguard, nobody's confidence is increased by periodic reviews."

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Eight lifeboatmen, all from

Mousehole, Cornwall, died

Coastguard chief attacks constant reviews

From Our Correspondent Reading

A factory worker, aged 19, was jailed for life yesterday for the murder of a former British Airways hostess whose naked body he dumped on a railway track.

During the four-day trial at Reading Crown Court Mr John Morris, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury how Alan Pinkerton of Dutton Way, Iver, Buckinghamshire, strangled and sexually assaulted Mrs Katia Hopkins and then tied her body to a railway line to make it appear she had committed suicide.

Mr Morris said that Mrs Hopkins, aged 36, of Richins Park, Iver, was on her way to meet Mr Johannes Phaff, a veterinary surgeon when she was attacked.

Pinkerton, who admitted he had taken drugs and had been drinking heavily, had denied murder.

Life for youth who put body on railway line

From Our Correspondent Reading

International figures including the Duke of Edinburgh, Sheikh Yamani, oil minister of Saudi Arabia, and Umberto Agnelli, chairman of Fiat Auto, will meet in London next week to discuss the social and cultural challenge of modern technology.

They will take part in a three-day symposium called Mantech which is being organized by the Fellowship of Engineering (whose senior fellow is the Duke of Edinburgh).

Sir Henry Chilver, vice-chancellor of Cranfield Institute of Technology and chairman of the Mantech Organizing Committee, said yesterday that the 200 invited participants were expected to produce specific conclusions about the international impact of new technology.

The average working man earning £160 a week now takes home £110.65, compared with £121.03 in Budget week. He has been hit by the rise in national insurance contributions, which have increased by 40p a week, and by the change in the system of calculating mortgage interest tax relief.

Under the new Miras system, tax relief is deducted from the payment made to the borrower instead of reducing deductions from pay at source.

On a £15,000 mortgage Miras will normally mean a net loss of about £1.60 a week because the drop in repayments is less than the income tax relief withdrawn.

Another £1.33 is lost through the taxman clawing back tax relief given last year.

The position looks rather better once the Budget tax cuts take effect, on the first pay day after May 10, but after the initial tax rebate for the weeks since the start of the tax year in April, take-home pay subsidies to a steady average £112.45.

Duke to look at impact of technology

By Our Technology Correspondent

Followers of the cash-in-hand school of electoral behaviour - who believe people vote according to the state of their pockets - would do well to steer the Prime Minister away from a summer general election.

Calculations by *The Times* show that many people now have less in their pay packets than they did at Budget time.

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Rounder pounds but fewer in your pocket

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PARLIAMENT April 21 1983

'Times' report sent to privileges committee

COMMONS

The report in *The Times* on April 14 about "the draft report of the chairman of the Select Committee of Foreign Affairs about future British foreign policy over the Falkland Islands has been referred by the Commons to the Committee of Privileges.

The motion by committee chairman, Sir Anthony Kershaw (Stroud, C) that his complaint about *The Times* report be sent to the committee was carried by 159 votes to 141.

Moving it, he said that last Thursday the draft chairman's report on future British policy towards the Falkland Islands and South America was issued to 11 committee members and six clerks and advisers. Each copy bore the name or initials of the person to whom it was issued.

An accurate summary of the draft appeared as the lead story on the front page and another page of *The Times*. The story is clearly based on a copy reading of the draft. None who read both could doubt their convergence of fact.

Although phrases were used such as "the committee is understood to have concluded" or "The committee apparently found ...", the story contained more than one unidentified but easily identifiable quotation from the draft, and it followed faithfully the sequence of paragraphs in the draft.

Furthermore, Webster, *The Times* reporter, whose name was on the story, had been able to reveal what no other reporter could have known - that the draft was to be considered by the committee on Wednesday. Originally, consideration had been planned for Monday, the usual day when the committee met. A press announcement to that effect had been made.

It often happens (continued) that informed and diligent journalists carry on their subjects can and do, with the aid of notes or one or two friendly conversations in the corridors of this House. (Shouts of "And the bars") - piece together stories whose accuracy surprises MPs who thought they were in possession of exclusive information. No, or hardly any, breach of our rules is involved and we turn a blind eye.

In other cases, information improperly obtained was not of great moment to the outside world and we might take little notice. This case was different.

Here we have not (the said) an indiscreet conversation in the lobby or in the bar about a minor matter, but a case in which a master of major political controversy both at home and abroad, both in this House and out of it, has been written up from a complete document which the committee has not even considered and which some MPs have not even, under the circumstances, time to read.

I do not think either of our rulers will be pleased. Philip Webster is an experienced lobby man and his source can be presumed to know the rule.

Food price rise to be minimal

AGRICULTURE

Food price rises in the United Kingdom would add one half of one per cent to the food price index and one tenth of one per cent to the retail price index as a result of the European Commission's proposals on farm prices. Mr Peter Walker, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said when making a Commons statement on the EEC Council of Agriculture Ministers in Luxembourg this week.

He said the Commission had decided unanimously that it would not allow any increases in the prices they had proposed for the commodities in surplus milk, cereals, sugar and wine.

The beef premium and sheep premium, and there would be a small increase in the butter subsidy. The Commission in the butter subsidy. These consumer subsidies would be worth £200m to £300m. The school milk subsidy would be improved from 10.9p per pint to 12.4p per pint. The scheme would last for five years and the total benefit next year was likely to be of the order of £16m.

For Northern Ireland, the various schemes associated with the beef producers would be extended and were anticipated to be of £11m to £12m

benefit to the Northern Ireland producers. The Commission had also proposed to move around 75,000 tonnes of cereals from intervention into Northern Ireland.

Pork and poultry producers in Britain would benefit from low cereals price increases and from an undertaking by the Commission to take account of regional difficulties in its management of the pigmeat market. Also, the Commission proposed to press ahead with a scheme to make available from intervention on stocks cereals for use in animal feed, which could involve two to three million tonnes.

I hope that negotiations (he said) can be brought to a satisfactory conclusion as quickly as possible.

Mr Walker, in the last year food prices in this country increased by only 1.6 per cent, the lowest for years.

Aid for pig producers outlined

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food announced at question time in the Commons his decision to release the pig industry of the cost of veterinary inspections in those plants in Britain which are eligible to produce meat for export by meeting these from public funds with off-setting savings in other areas of Government expenditure. He said details will be announced shortly.

With this and the successful outcome in respect of subsidies and increases in export refunds amounting to 60 per cent on whole carcasses and main cuts, he said the Government had succeeded in making the two changes which the pig industry had told him were of most importance in helping it to

improve its competitive position in overseas markets.

I cannot say for certain (he said later) that in the immediate future there will be an easy position for the industry. I am certain that the particular crisis through which it is going at present will end at the end of the year in a position having a more permanent and integrated export position, enjoyed in the past by the Dutch and the Danes, which will give it much greater long term stability.

Sir Peter Mills (West Devon, C) while congratulating him on what he has done, will be urging the producer with 22.7 pigs per year per sow to reduce this over-production?

Will he continue his efforts to see that the pig industry does something about improving British bacon standards? Mr Walker: There was substantially increased production last year. In the early part of 1982 our pig producers were enjoying good prices and reasonable profit. The immediate result was a speedy and substantial increase in bacon exports.

I hope the charter bacon scheme now getting under way will start to improve the market performance of British bacon.

Forestry sales allegation refuted

Mrs Peggy Feeney, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, rejected what she called an absurd allegation by

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Delayed report 'critical' of Brixton police raids

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Home Office is to publish a report by the Police Complaints Board to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, criticizing controversial raids by the Metropolitan Police on premises in Raiton Road, Brixton, at the time of the disturbances there in April 1981.

The Home Office decision comes after an article in *New Law Journal*, which draws attention to a single, unexplained sentence in the annual report of the Police Complaints Board to Mr Whitelaw.

That says: "In the year under review we also made one report to you, the first of its kind, under Section 8 (2) of the Act."

The section in the Police Act, 1976, provides that the board can make a report to the Home Secretary on "any" matters coming to their notice to which they consider that his attention should be drawn by reason of their gravity, or of any other exceptional circumstances".

The article in *New Law Journal*, by Mr Walter Merricks, recalls that the raids, 11 houses, involved 176 officers taking part and 391 standing by.

Mr Merricks writes that when approached about the report the Home Office refused to comment, merely saying that the report was "confidential" and giving the impression it would remain that way.

The spokesperson from the

Home Office would not acknowledge the subject matter of the report, whether it contained recommendations, or whether it

would even be released to MPs.

Mr Merricks adds that Sir Cyril Philips reaffirmed that he had arranged for the Home Office to make an appropriate response and that, told of this, the Home Office admitted that a response was now "under consideration". Later it was stated that the report would be published "shortly". The Home Office confirmed that to *The Times*, but did not give the date of publication.

Mr Merricks says he understands that the report concerned the coordinated search of Raiton Road in July 1981 "and was critical of the Metropolitan Police practice and policy".

Mr Merricks comments: "I

says little for the regard the Home Office have for its [the board's] work, or for the seriousness with which the Home Secretary takes his responsibilities as police authority for London, that the first instinct of those responsible was to suppress all knowledge of this first attempt by the board to express its concern on matters which, by definition, must be grave or exceptional".

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THE MOST AMAZING TURNING-CIRCLE STORY EVER TOLD.

When is a 15ft 8ins Volvo 240 Estate smaller than a 12ft 6ins VW Golf? When it's turning round.

Although over three feet longer than the Golf, the Volvo Estate's turning circle is 7 inches smaller.

A giddy, dizzy 32 feet 2 inches, between kerbs.

Parking a Volvo Estate is rather like getting a quart into a pint pot.

Only without all the struggle.

Its power-assisted steering means that the car is every bit as light to handle as the Golf.

But we don't want to pick on the Golf. The Fiat Strada, the Ford Escort and the Talbot Horizon all have a bigger turning circle than the Volvo 240 Estate.

And when you compare the car with other big estates, there's no comparison.

The Peugeot 505 Estate, for instance, needs 2 feet 7 inches more to turn round in.

The Mercedes 200 Estate, 3 feet 6 inches more. The Ford Granada Estate, 4 feet 2 inches more.

Of course, it's not just feet you're interested in, it's cubic feet.

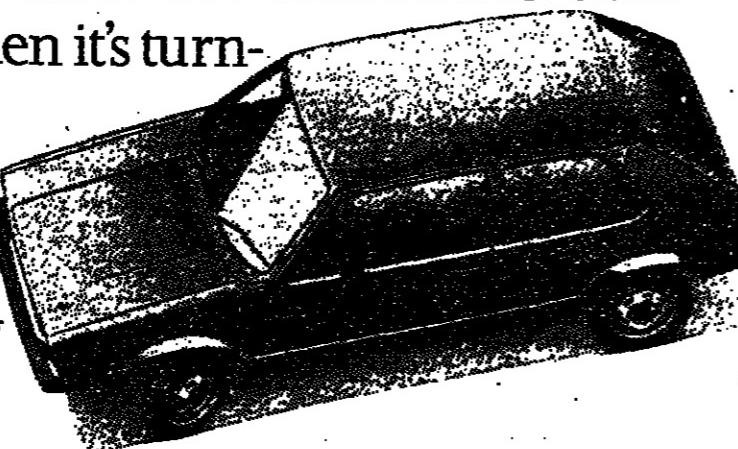
And the Volvo 240 Estate has seventy five of them, with the rear seat folded down.

Both your cargo and your passengers travel in carpeted comfort.

You, the driver, have the added benefit of an automatically heated seat.

(It switches itself on as soon as the temperature drops below 14° Centigrade.)

The construction of the car is equally comforting. Like all Volvos, the 240 Estate is built around a rigid



safety cage of welded box steel pillars. Amazingly, each weld is strong enough to support the weight of the entire car.

There are impact-absorbing crumple zones to the front and rear, and steel bars in the doors.

The 240 Estate protects your investment, as well as your life.

It goes through a unique nineteen-stage painting and rust-proofing process. A coating of PVC is applied not only to the underbody, but to the sills and side-panels too. All vulnerable and inaccessible parts of the body are made

of double-sided, hot-dipped zinc plate. And the exposed parts of the exhaust system have a special rust-resisting aluminium finish.

Happily, the Volvo 240 Estate is not as expensive as it sounds.

It can be yours for just £7,998, including car tax and VAT. (Not to mention central locking, rear seat belts and internally adjustable door mirrors.)

Any way you look at it, that's not a lot of money for an estate car. Especially an estate car that can turn on a sixpence.

To: Volvo Customer Information, Lancaster Rd, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3PN. Please send me details of the Volvo Estates.

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Address _____

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Postcode _____

THE VOLVO 240 SERIES ESTATES. FROM £7998.

France sticks to defence expansion despite economic difficulties

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The Government proposes to increase defence spending by an average of 2 per cent a year for the next five years, despite its present economic difficulties, M Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, announced yesterday. Thirty per cent of the equated spending budget will go for nuclear arms.

Details of the defence proposals covering the years 1984-1988 (inclusive), which were revealed yesterday, show that France intends to go ahead with all the big defence programmes that were planned before the present economic crisis. Ob-

vers wonder, however, how much can be squeezed into a relatively small increase in spending.

Under the proposed modernization programme of France's independent nuclear deterrent force, two more nuclear ballistic missiles submarines will be added to the five already in operation.

The first, bearing M4 multiple-warhead nuclear missiles with a range of more than 2,500 miles, is due to come into operation in 1985, while construction of the second, of a new generation, will begin in 1988 with the aim of bringing it into service in 1994.

The medium range air-to-ground stand-off rocket is to be added to 15 Mirage IV strategic bombers and is also to equip the new Mirage 2000 fighter-bombers. The Government aims to replace the remaining Mirage IV bombers with mobile SX strategic missiles by 1996.

The first regime of Hades mobile tactical missiles with a range of more than 190 miles, which are due eventually to

replace the Pluton missile with a range of 754 miles, is to be bought into operation in 1990.

The plan envisages some reduction in conventional forces, but not as much as that originally planned last autumn.

The Army will suffer the biggest cuts, losing some 22,000 of its 312,000 men, representing a reduction of 7 per cent.

Purchase orders for France's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier are planned for 1986, with a planned commissioning date of the mid-1990s. Initially, it will be equipped with Super-Etendard aircraft, but these will later be replaced by a maritime version of the tactical combat aircraft now under development.

The plan envisages that eight nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarines will be in service or on order by 1988 instead of the five originally planned.

Defence remained one of the Government's top priorities, M Hernu said at a press conference to introduce the proposed five-year plan that was approved by the Cabinet on Wednesday.

"France must have the means to ensure its security... whatever the hazards of the economic situation, the national defence must not be sacrificed," he said.

The Bill incorporating the five-year plan provides for a total of \$30,000m francs (£72,000m) to be spent on defence over the next five years, representing an increase in real terms of 11 per cent over the period. The share of defence spending is expected to rise from 4.2 per cent of gdp to more than 4.3 per cent (Nato definition of defence spending and gdp).

M Hernu:

Marchais survives infighting

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

Deep divisions within the French Communist Party have been temporarily papered over with the unanimous adoption by the party's Central Committee of a report by M Georges Marchais, the General-Secretary, reaffirming the party's commitment to remain in the Mitterrand Government.

M Marchais, whose own future was also being widely questioned both within and outside the party, appears to have emerged from the two-day Central Committee meeting, held behind closed doors, with his position strengthened.

A special eight-page supplement in yesterday's *L'Humanité*, the official party newspaper, published in full M Marchais' report to the Central Committee on Tuesday "without correction or touching up," M Pierre Jiquin, the party spokesman said.

There had been suggestions that the delay in publication was to allow time for amendments after criticisms of the report by Central Committee members.

While admitting that there had been some critics of the Government's recent austerity measures, M Marchais said that that should not hide the many positive achievements of the Socialist-Communist alliance

since coming to power nearly two years ago.

"We have absolutely no reason to blush about the record of this Government, in which we have placed a fulcrum," he said. "No federation, no section, no cell has called into question our participation in the Government. Only those who do not understand the policy of our party will be surprised."

The letter's writers said that they believed the Communist Party should remain in the Government "but not at any price."

M Marchais denied that the Communists were "the great losers" of last month's municipal elections, and claimed that the party was seeing the start of a revival of its influence.

The latest unpublished opinion polls indicate, however, that support for the Communists has fallen to below 10 per cent, having been around 15 percent in 1981, and 20-25 per cent in the 1970s.

The elections for the European Parliament are coming up next year, and it is thought that the Communists will want to remain in alliance with the Socialists at least until then, for fear of having the weakness of the present position publicly revealed.

He made no reference to the

US plea for tougher line on Namibia

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

A report produced by 24 religious, labour and civil rights groups has urged the Reagan Administration to adopt a tougher line with South Africa over the future of Namibia.

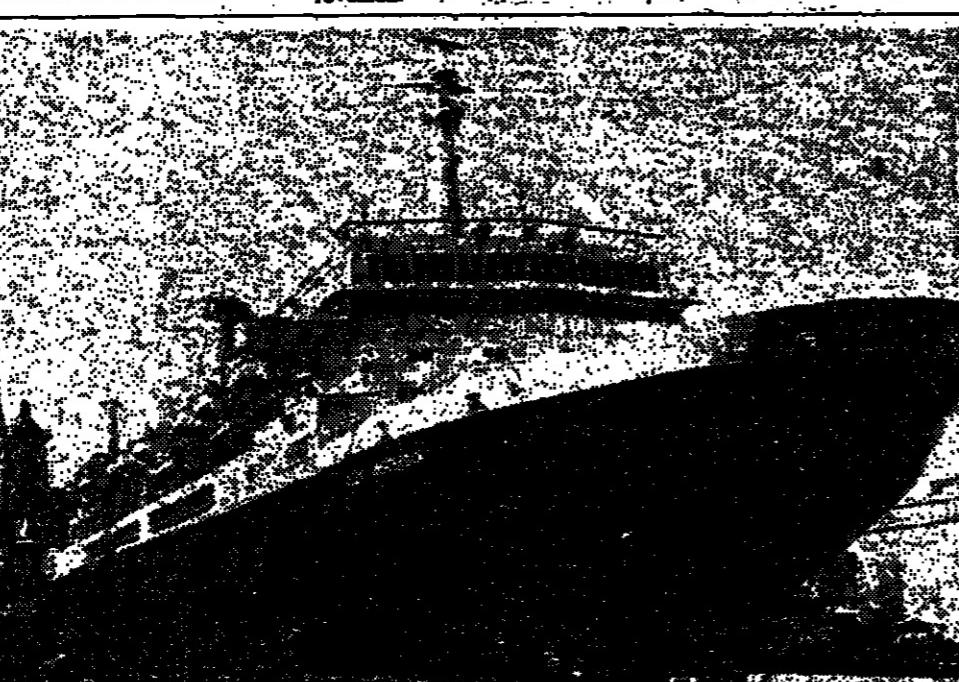
The report calls on the Administration to remove the question of Cuban troops in Angola from the Namibian independence talks. It says: "There is every reason to believe that the Angolans themselves will initiate the withdrawal of Cuban troops when Namibia is independent and the South African threat to Luanda is removed."

It also urges Congress to pass legislation which would prevent United States negotiators at the Namibian independence talks from linking a Cuban withdrawal to the issue of Namibia's independence. Congress should also advise the Administration that it should threaten to impose sanctions against South Africa if it continues to be intransigent.

Such sanctions could include ending the key elements of American policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa such as training for South African nuclear technicians and the exchange of defence attaches.

The report, entitled *Namibia, the crisis in United States policy towards Southern Africa*, was prepared by TransAfrica, a leading American anti-apartheid organization, in association with the Congressional black caucus and other black groups.

The US, along with Britain, France, West Germany and Canada, has been involved in negotiations since 1977 aimed at winning acceptance by South Africa, black African states and the South West Africa People's Organization (Swapo), of a United Nations plan for Namibia's independence.



Shipshape: Nieuw Amsterdam, the new Dutch transatlantic liner, nearing completion at St Nazaire, northern France.

June date for troubled clergy

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

A meeting of British and Argentine church leaders is to be held in Brazil in June to seek solutions to problems between the two countries, including the difficulties surrounding a possible visit of next-of-kin to Argentine war graves in the Falkland Islands.

Talks between the International Committee of the Red Cross and a group in Buenos Aires claiming to represent the next-of-kin broke down on Wednesday, and the British Foreign Office stated that that particular proposal would, therefore, not be allowed to proceed.

Philip Morgan, the general secretary of the British Council of Churches, said on his return from South Africa that he was not surprised, and did not wish to criticize the British Government's position. Argentine churchmen had

warned him that there was an element of political propaganda behind the proposal, and they expected difficulties on the British side.

Dr Morgan announced yesterday that he felt the return of a group of next-of-kin from a visit to London, and their complaint that the British Government had been more helpful than their own, in attempting to trace Argentine soldiers missing in action, had persuaded the junta that his proposal could have been a further embarrassment to them.

By then, Dr Morgan would have reported the situation to the Pope as an official party from the British Council of Churches and the British Roman Catholic community visits Rome later this month. He said he hoped for the Pope's blessing on the effort by British Mayor's Sheffield Appeal Fund administrators. Our Sheffield Correspondent writes.

Cash for widows: Cash payments are to be made to the 16 widows of men who died in the sinking of HMS Sheffield in the Falklands conflict - because of an about turn by the Lord Mayor's Sheffield Appeal Fund administrators. Our Sheffield Correspondent writes.

The floundering camel train of Basle



The stunt that went wrong: A camel train which set out sedately (above) through the streets of Basle to publicize a bank's change of location, ended in high comedy (below) when one of the animals shed its load and bolted.



Priest sets picture of Pope alright

From Susan MacDonald
Lisbon

Father Juan Fernández Krohn, the Spanish priest accused of attempting to assassinate the Pope in Portugal last May, made a brief but colourful court appearance yesterday.

The House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee on Tuesday narrowly voted to reject President Reagan's request for \$30m (£32m) in additional military aid for El Salvador.

He had sought the additional funds as part of a \$110m emergency military aid programme for El Salvador.

The House has also delayed for more than a month the President's request to transfer the remaining \$60m for military aid for El Salvador from other foreign aid accounts.

However, the defence argued that despite Father Krohn's attempts to incriminate himself by his statements against the Pope, there was no evidence that he had tried to use the knife he was carrying, which was only found on him after his arrest. The trial has been suspended until May 2.

The elections for the European Parliament are coming up next year, and it is thought that the Communists will want to remain in alliance with the Socialists at least until then, for fear of having the weakness of the present position publicly revealed.

M Marchais dismissed Mme Vermeersch's criticisms in a single sentence, saying that they were totally at odds with the strategy democratically adopted by the Communist Party at its last congress in 1982.

He made no reference to the

Congress will hear Reagan on Salvador

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan will make a rare appearance before a joint congressional session next Wednesday to seek support for his Central America policy and to try and rescue his endangered military aid package for El Salvador.

If history is written, God forbid, that Central America has gone communist and Mexico is flooded with refugees, they're not going to say that Ronald Reagan didn't do his dead level best to prevent it," said one Administration official, according to the *Washington Post*.

• MANAGUA: A leading Salvadorean guerrilla, Senior Cayetano Carpio, committed suicide after he learnt that his comrades had betrayed him and killed his deputy, the Nicaraguan Government said yesterday.

The alleged killers of the deputy, Melida Anaya Montes, known as Commander Ana María, are members of the Popular Liberation Forces, commanded by Senior Carpio. They were under arrest, the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry said.

Senior Carpio, aged 63, could not bear the fact that his deputy commander had been killed here on April 6, the ministry said. Security spokesmen identified the two as German Anibal Osorio Perez, aged 30, and Manuel Genaro Flores, aged 27, both exiles who had returned clandestinely to the country. According to the security forces, they had fired at a security patrol.

The Government has made no comment on the extradition request made by Argentine courts for Mr Michael Townley, who was born in America and is a former agent of the Chilean secret police. He is sought in connection with the murder of Chilean General Carlos Prats and his wife, in Buenos Aires in 1979.

Mr Townley is completing a 10-year sentence in the US for the assassination of Senior Orlando Letelier, a former Chilean minister, in Washington in 1976.

Senior Carpio was attending a political congress in Libya when he heard of the killing.

Glenn throws hat in ring at last

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

Although the sixth Democrat to throw his hat into the ring, Other contenders are former Vice-President Walter Mondale, Senator Alan Cranston, Senator Gary Hart, Senator Ernest Hollings and Mr Reubin Askew.

Senator Glenn, aged 61, is at present running second in the popularity stakes to Mr Mondale. However, some analysts believe the Democrats may eventually decide to back Senator Glenn on the grounds that his Eisenhower-type image may provide the best chance of

defeating President Reagan - assuming that Mr Reagan decides to seek another term.

Senator Glenn's disadvantages are his poor speaking style, inefficient organization and opposition from the Jewish lobby who are disturbed by what they perceive to be his pro-Arab stance.

Announcing his candidacy in his home town of New Concord, he said his declaration was a bid for yet another American dream. "The issue is leadership," he said.

The Ohio senator, the first American to orbit the Earth, is

surrounded by American establishments in Beirut. Sources at the American University of Beirut said both the university and the American University Hospital had received bomb threats. Rescue teams dug up nine bodies from the wreckage of the embassy yesterday.

Their only lead so far is a report by two witnesses who say they saw a large van apparently burdened by a heavy load, force its way into the embassy roadway shortly before the explosion. The van, packed with an estimated 500lb of explosives, was blown to pieces when it slammed into an embassy wall.

As rescue workers continued digging under the debris, a few shots rang out from an army checkpoint nearby, sending about 20 Marines guarding the embassy scurrying for cover. They later returned to their positions after it was understood that the Lebanese Army had fired at a driver who refused to stop at a road block.

The incident was just one example of the tension that now surrounds American establishments in Beirut. The US embassy, which had been a target of terrorist attacks in the past, was hit again on April 19, when a bomb exploded in front of the building, killing three people and injuring several others. The US government has responded by increasing security at its embassies and consulates throughout Lebanon.

Lebanese release four bomb blast witnesses

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Lebanese police yesterday released without explanation the four witnesses they have been holding since Monday's bombing of the US Embassy in Beirut, and it appears they are no nearer to discovering the identity of the attackers.

Their only lead so far is a report by two witnesses who say they saw a large van apparently burdened by a heavy load, force its way into the embassy roadway shortly before the explosion. The van, packed with an estimated 500lb of explosives, was blown to pieces when it slammed into an embassy wall.

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Enemy of Machel killed in Pretoria

Magno (Reuters) - Andando Cristina, a Portuguese shot dead in South Africa, was regarded here as the principal figure behind a shadowy rebel guerrilla movement that has shaken the Marxist government of President Samora Machel of Mozambique.

He was believed to be one of the top three men in the right-wing Mozambique National Resistance, which Mozambique and other black African states accuse Pretoria of training and equipping as part of a regional campaign of destabilization.

Cristina was found shot through the head in a Pretoria suburb on Sunday. South African police announced yesterday. They said an investigation was under way but no arrests had been made.

\$1bn turns up in 'black' cash

Istanbul (Reuters) - Well over a billion dollars (£607.5m) in previously undecleared earnings and assets, or "black money", has come to light under a special tax amnesty launched by the Turkish Government.

The money, 40 per cent of the cash in circulation in Turkey, turned up when the Finance Ministry said that all previously unregistered cash would become legal if it was deposited at the state agricultural bank for three days. Depositors who complied will have to pay a tax of only 1 per cent.

Former slave dies at 121

Chicago (AFP) - A former slave born two months after the American Civil War began has died here aged 121. Documents produced by the family of Mary Duckworth gave her birth date as June 4, 1861, in the state of Mississippi.

She had 12 children, including a son now 92 and her 300 descendants span six generations. She attributed going old at an early age to having carried loads on her head.

Plea by wife

The wife of Mr Schlesinger, the jailed US dissident, who called on US Senator Malcolm Riffkind, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office last night three days before he is due to begin a six-day visit to Moscow. She asked Mr Riffkind to intercede on her husband's behalf.

Women first

Oslo (AP) - Norway's Justice Ministry is offering free legal help to battered women in its effort to bring women beaten in justice. The offer extends to all female victims of men, whether housewives mistreated by husbands, unmarried women victimized by boyfriends or prostitutes abused by clients or procurers.

Boeing sued

Philadelphia (AP) - Nine legal actions have been filed against Boeing by families of British and American divers killed when a Chinook helicopter crashed at Memmingen, West Germany, last September during an air show. Forty-six people died. Each action seeks \$3m (£2m) damages.

Freedom hope

One dissident held but Russia agrees to let another leave

The dissident writer Georgy Vladimov said yesterday that he had been told to report to the emigration office in Moscow next Tuesday to receive exit visas to West Germany for himself, his wife and his mother-in-law.

But on the same day, Mr Naum Meiman, aged 72, a dissident, was taken into custody by the KGB and questioned by the Moscow city prosecutor on alleged anti-Soviet activities.

The decision to allow Mr Vladimov to emigrate brings to an end a long struggle between the writer and the Soviet authorities. Mr Vladimov was a well-known Soviet author until he became head of the Moscow branch of Amnesty International, and wrote a number of works critical of Stalinism and Soviet repressions.

He is best known in the West for his short novel, *Faithful Russia*, the allegorical tale of a person's camp guard dog who cannot adapt to the thaw which now risks losing contact with its native soil, he said.

Mr Vladimov, who is in poor health, was told by the KGB to renounce his anti-Soviet activities and asked to name other dissidents. He refused, and wrote to Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader, in January, reluctantly asking for permission to leave the Soviet Union.

Mr Vladimov told *The Times* that he had been formally invited to lecture for a year on modern Russian literature at Cologne university.

"Of course I understand that, if they let me out I may not be going for one year but forever", Mr Vladimov said. He said he would not be surprised if he was stripped of his Soviet citizenship once he was in the West.

Emigration was "a very serious and difficult step,

especially for a writer of 52 who now risked losing contact with his native soil," he said.

Mr Vladimov has already suffered one heart attack and he would have preferred to leave Russia in the summer.

His case has been taken up by leading Western figures, including the West German writer Sander Levin, and was the subject of talks between Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel the West German Social Democratic leader and Mr Andropov in Moscow in January.

Mr Naum Meiman has been a leading human rights activist in Russia for many years and was a founder member of the Moscow Helsinki Group. The group, set up to monitor Soviet observance of the human rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki agreements, was dissolved last September after sustained KGB pressure on its leaders, including Dr

Andrei Sakharov, the physicist, and his wife Elena Bonner.

Mr Meiman has done the less continued to collect information on human rights abuses. The KGB searched his flat earlier this week and removed what it called "dangerous anti-soviet material" as well as his typewriter and a tape recorder.

Also active in the Jewish movement, Mr Meiman has been seeking permission to emigrate to Israel for nearly 10 years.

● Americans held: Two men in a group of American visitors were held by police for two hours yesterday after making a public demand for an exit visa for young music teacher Boris Molchanov, who married an American woman in 1979, AFP reports.

The group released multi-coloured balloons bearing the words "Release Boris" inside the Hotel Cosmos hall and distributed pamphlets.

Farm price rift over green rates

From Ian Murray
Luxembourg

EEC agriculture ministers meet here again next Wednesday in an attempt to agree Community farm prices for the year ahead. The price package is already nearly a month overdue for agreement, and failure next week might well make it impossible for a settlement before June.

From Britain's point of view the remaining argument is a technical one, which Mr Peter Walker, the Agriculture Minister, will be able to watch rather than from the sidelines.

He has already been assured that the prices themselves will rise by only a modest 4.2 per cent overall, which puts an end to the need for him to continue to argue for price restraint.

But next week's meeting threatens to be particularly difficult precisely because the price settlement is so low.

This means that the countries who are members of the European Monetary System exchanges can only obtain increases in line with the value of their "green" exchange rates, which adjust prices in line with the relative strength of real exchange rates.

100 found murdered in a cave

From Geoffrey Matthews
Bogotá

The discovery of the remains of more than 100 peasants, apparently shot by drug racketeers, has caused horror and outrage in Colombia. The remains, estimated to be about six years old, have been found in a cave in an isolated region of the northern Cesar Department. Senior Edgardo Pupo Governor of Cesar, said after visiting the cave that the massacre must have been "a real holocaust carried out with Nazi-style efficiency".

Cesar is one of the departments in Colombia's Atlantic-Caribbean region where racketeers have long been active in overseeing the cultivation of marijuana on a vast scale. Although over the last two years the region has ceased to be a centre of marijuana cultivation, it remains the main point from which marijuana and cocaine are smuggled across the Caribbean to Florida by air or boat.

In recent years, the United States has estimated that Colombia has been the source of 80 per cent of both the marijuana and cocaine (processed in Colombia from coca paste brought in from Bolivia and Peru) consumed in North America. However, due to the increasing cultivation of marijuana in the United States the racketeers currently appear to be switching their priorities to cocaine production.

At the estimated time of the massacre the Cesar department would still have been enjoying its "marijuana bonanza." Like many other peasants in isolated regions of Colombia, the victims of the massacre are thought to have cultivated marijuana for the racketeers for better money than they could earn from more traditional crops like cotton, rice or corn.

However, their earnings would have represented a tiny fraction of actual profits and one theory is that the massacre was caused by rebellion over wages. Another is that the racketeers staged a crude land seizure.

Senior Pupo declared bitterly: "This is a terrible event for the department, Colombia and the world, but especially for us in a civilized and democratic country which unfortunately has for some years been in the hands of drug traffickers who impose the law of death."

Turkey seeks Western aid against Armenians

Ankara (NYT) — Turkey has called on Western governments for help in preventing attacks on Turkish diplomats by radical Armenian groups.

It fears such attacks might increase as the 50th anniversary approaches of mass arrests and deportations of Armenians from Istanbul on April 24, 1915. Under the Ottomans, most Armenians were deported to Syrian desert areas and hundreds of thousands died.

The Armenian patriarch of Istanbul has appealed to Armenians around the world to fight against Armenian extremists who have killed 26 Turkish diplomats in the past decade.

At a meeting of Nato defence ministers last month, Mr Haluk Bayraktar of Turkey asked for cooperation against Armenian attacks.

In addition, Mr Ilter Turmen, the Foreign Minister, visited Beirut, believed to be the main base for Armenian activists. He flew there on March 17, six days after Mr Gulp Balkan, Turkey's am-

Press challenges De Lorean ban

From Christopher Thomas, New York

An unprecedented ruling banning the release of court documents relating to the John De Lorean cocaine case in Los Angeles is being challenged by a series of American newspapers and television stations.

The reason for the ban has been justified by editors who are accustomed to complete access to any document available to the court, even if it is not presented or read out.

Protests about the ban have

been formally presented to the judge by NBC News, CBS

News, and the Greater Los Angeles Press Club. The fear is that the ban will set a precedent for other criminal trials, which traditionally receive extensive pretrial publicity.

Associated Press protested that "there is nothing so special about this case" of Mr De Lorean's status that would warrant affording him this unprecedented protection".



Trying again: Stanca Papusoiu, the Romanian deported from Britain, applying for a British entry visa in Vienna yesterday.

Bases pact ratified by Spanish Parliament

From Harry Debels
Madrid

The Spanish Parliament has ratified by an overwhelming majority an agreement which allows the United States to continue using air and naval bases in Spain.

The powerful lower house, the Congress of Deputies, approved the agreement by 249 votes in favour, nine against, with seven abstentions.

Also active in the Jewish movement, Mr Meiman has been seeking permission to emigrate to Israel for nearly 10 years.

● Americans held: Two men in a group of American visitors

were held by police for two hours yesterday after making a public demand for an exit visa for young music teacher Boris Molchanov, who married an American woman in 1979, AFP reports.

The group released multi-coloured balloons bearing the words "Release Boris" inside the Hotel Cosmos hall and distributed pamphlets.

Drive stepped up to harass Solidarity

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish authorities appear to have intensified their campaign against the underground Solidarity movement in an attempt to stifle as many potential demonstrators as possible before the papal visit.

As underground activists prepare leaflets for the May Day rally planned by Solidarity, police have moved in on several printing presses, rounding up many of the disbanded union's supporters.

Mr Wałęsa is therefore clearly not optimistic.

At the same time, the Polish Government is stepping up pressure on cultural associations, many of whom provided intellectual support to the Solidarity movement. The debate about whether the writers' and film makers' union can be reactivated continues and the authorities have now decided to suspend the artists' union. This is because the leadership of the union has refused to retract eight statements released over the past year critical of the status quo.

Meanwhile the World Jewish Congress, one of the most important Jewish organizations taking part in the official ceremonies marking the fortieth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, has said that it will withdraw from the formal events after "a week of provocation and manipulation".

Many Jews have been critical of the way that the anniversary is being staged — above all the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization — and some have also been critical of the way that Solidarity turned one unofficial ceremony into a political rally.

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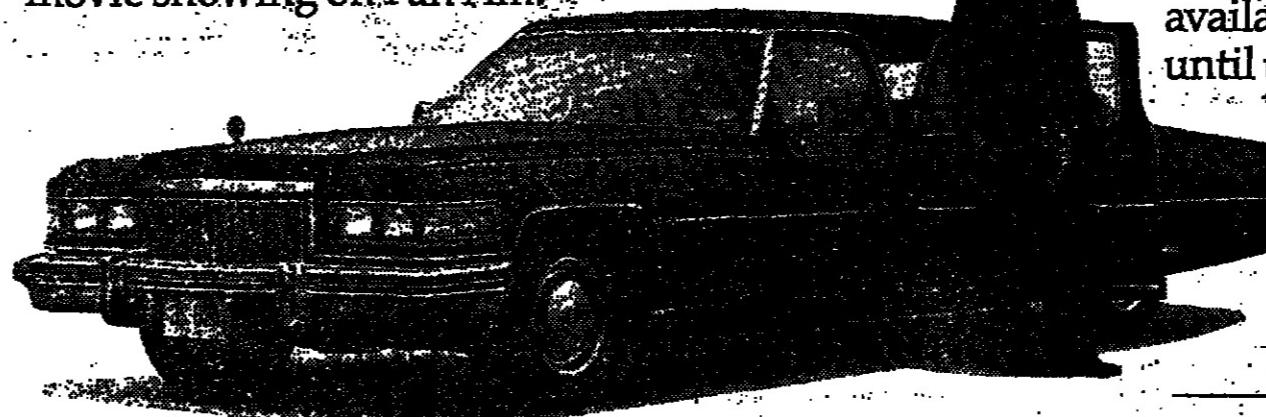
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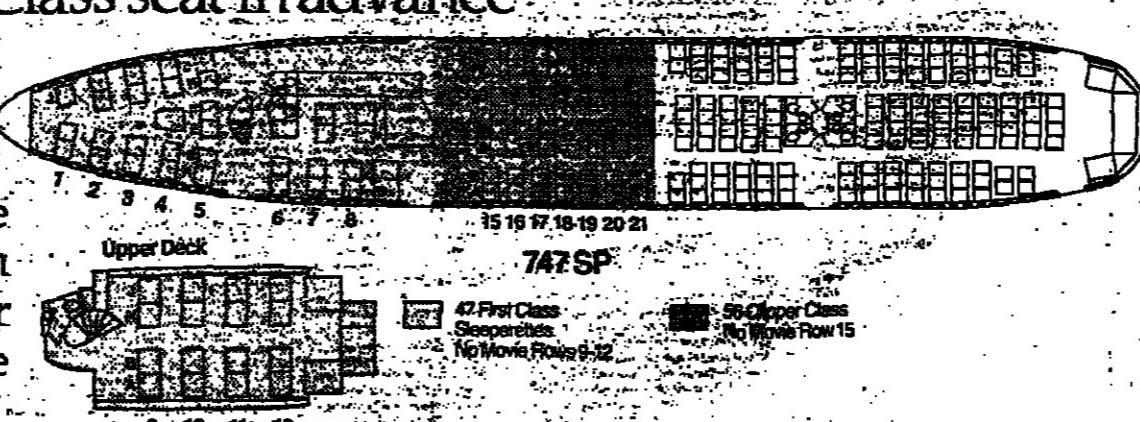
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All goes wrong on first sour day of tour for the royal couple

From Granit Forbes, PA Court Correspondent, Wellington

A series of rows overshadowed the tours of the Prince and Princess of Wales in New Zealand yesterday as photographers downed cameras, a political agitator protested in court, some MPs felt snubbed because they had not received a special invitation, and a champagne toast went sour.

But under an overcast sky, from which came regular torrents of rain, the royal couple *artfully* smiled throughout. It was the first unhappy day after five weeks on tour.

The four-week visit to Australia went without a hitch and the representatives of the British press were surprised on Sunday to be greeted in Auckland with the news that the visit to New Zealand had been "organised with only the local media in mind".

After days of reading and argument, matters came to a head in Wainuiomata, when British journalists, who had faithfully followed the tour and made the Princess the star of hundreds of front pages on her first foreign visit, staged a boycott.

The final straw came when Mr Dick Butler, the media liaison officer in New Zealand, decided to prevent photographers from using a press lorry during a royal walkabout.

When British cameramen protested, he called the police and told security officers he was frightened the British contingent would smash up the lottery.

Reporters, who have been prevented from seeing the Prince and Princess during walkabouts by a line of white-helmeted police officers, agreed to join the protest and the walkabout through the city centre went uncovered by the British Media.

It was agreed that the boycott would continue until matters were resolved with New Zealand Government officials.

Disaster struck when Sir David Beattie, the Governor-General asked the 600 guests at the function to raise their glasses in a loyal toast. No sooner were the words out of his mouth than he realises that every glass of wine had been removed by diligent waitresses.

Emotions were also running high at Wellington's District Court, where a tattooed Maori who bared his bottom to the Prince and Princess on Wednesday appeared before magistrate.

There was uproar when Mr Te Rima Mihaka and another protester, Mr Diane Prince refused to enter the dock. Mr Mihaka, aged 41, described as a "political agitator", denied a charge of disorderly behaviour. He said he would have pleaded guilty if the charge

had been of showing contempt for the Royal Family.

He was remanded to appear in court in June.

Some MPs were also unhappy last night at being excluded from a ball at Government House at which the Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince Edward were guests of honour.

At the ball, a champagne toast to the Queen's fifty-first birthday went sour when both the Prince and the Princess pushed their glasses aside after a token sip.

It was agreed that the boycott would continue until matters were resolved with New Zealand Government officials.

After an awkward pause the royal couple and those at the top table were given a small measure of Spanish champaigne.

Both the Prince and Princess, after taking one sip from the bubbly, toyed with their glasses in embarrassment. As a waitress whisked the offending drinks away, Prince Charles tactfully remarked: "What a waste of champaigne."



The Prince and Princess of Wales dancing at the Wellington ball last night. Space was at a premium and the royal couple were stranded at the edge of the floor.

Carrington derides 'megaphone diplomacy' with the Russians

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Lord Carrington called on the West last night to start a new dialogue with the Soviet Union, as opposed to a silent wall of nerves broken only by bursts of "megaphone diplomacy".

The former Foreign Secretary also urged Europe to start playing a bigger defence role, but as a complement not an alternative to the Atlantic alliance.

He told the International Institute for Strategic Studies that he was no preaching a return to the defence policies of the 1970s. But we should be ready to do business with the Russians when it benefited both sides and when Moscow made it possible.

Indiscriminate sanctions against the Soviet Union are neither feasible nor desirable. If they did not work against Mr Smith in Rhodesia, they are unlikely to bring down the Soviet empire, he said, in the annual Alastair Buchanan memorial lecture.

It should not be our aim anyway to give them the excuse for strengthening their econ-

omic grip on Eastern Europe or repressing the aspirations of their own people.

Lord Carrington, who is now chairman of General Electric, said that the West had squandered its advantages in the past by what he called "competitive détente", offering semi-strategic exports at absurdly low interest rates in an undignified scramble for Eastern markets.

Now countries had over reacted by threatening to sever valuable trade links.

"I doubt if the Russians will be very impressed by these threats while America continues to supply them with bread and butter, and while the Poles go short of both."

In his most comprehensive review of international affairs since leaving the Foreign Office a year ago, Lord Carrington said we were witnessing the slow decline of the Soviet empire, but should beware of trying to bring down the crumbling edifice with one last shove.

"Our policy in Eastern Europe as elsewhere must be to encourage reform rather than

revolution. Sporadic convulsions ruthlessly put down by the Russians and their clients cannot be in the interests of these peoples themselves.

"The Russians must learn and we must do what we can to teach them over the years that their security interests are not best served by an endless cycle of repression, but by giving the people of Eastern Europe a voice in their own destiny."

In an analysis of how Europe could pull its weight more effectively within Nato, he favoured a better division of labour between the member states, with Britain concentrating her own contribution through the Royal Navy.

The British, he said, with European and American support, had just sailed 8,000 miles to protect a handful of their kith and kin on a remote island. Could anyone doubt that we would fight to protect 55 million people at home?

There was now a little less talk about neutrality in Western Europe.

Leading article, page 13

French nuclear test causes outrage

Wellington (AFP) New Zealand and Australia yesterday condemned France's latest underground nuclear test explosion in the South Pacific, with the former saying that if would revive "feelings of outrage" in the region.

In Canberra, Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Foreign Minister, expressed deep disappointment

that France had gone ahead with the tests despite the strong opposition his Government had conveyed earlier this month. He expected to discuss the matter in Paris next month.

There was no immediate official reaction to the French explosion elsewhere in Asia, but a Philippine Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterated the coun-

Soviet drive against Afghan insurgents

Delhi (NYT) - A Western diplomat here has said that a big Soviet-led offensive was underway in north-west Afghanistan against insurgent positions. Heavy casualties were reported in the fighting, which was said to be continuing on the outskirts of Herat, near the Iranian border.

The informant quoted a diplomatic report from Kabul as saying that Soviet and Afghan troops had opened the assault after making heavy air attacks on areas around Herat suspected of sheltering Muslim guerrillas opposed to the Babrak Karmal regime.

The drive, which apparently began some time this month, is reported to have come in the wake of big insurgent attacks on Soviet and Afghan forces. The offensive came amid preparations for the fourth anniversary of the military coup of April 27, 1978, which placed the first of three pro-Soviet Marxist governments in power in Afghanistan.

Heavy fighting was also reported this month between Soviet troops and insurgents around the cities of Kandahar, Ghazni and Mazar-i-Sharif near the Afghan-Soviet frontier.

An insurgent success was reported, from the northern Panjshir Valley, through which the main highway connecting

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All Metros now have newly designed seats. Most feature a driver's remote control door mirror,

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So in your buy-election, vote for Metro.

WHAT CAR? MAGAZINE
APRIL '83



Hanoi condemns Peking

Hanoi (AFP) - Vietnam accused China yesterday of another cross-border operation and renewed shelling attacks. A communiqué carried by the official Vietnam news agency said that Chinese gunners had fired 50 mortar rounds on a village in Cao Bang province, killing two people and wounding four others.

It said that a squad of between eight and 10 Chinese

soldiers had entered the north-west Vietnamese province of Hoang Lien Son and opened fire on the population, wounding "a certain number of people".

The same day, the communiqué said, dozens of Chinese shells fell on a part of Cao Bang and the neighboring province of Ha Tuyen. It did not indicate what the casualties were.

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SPECTRUM

Seventy-four years ago, Jewish idealists built the first kibbutz. Today it is a thriving community, but are the ideals still relevant?

Fading blooms of the desert

By Christopher Walker

Tiberias, Israel
If the handful of hardy Jewish pioneers who came here from the freezing corners of Russia and Poland 74 years ago to found Degania, the first ever kibbutz, were able to return to inspect their idealistic creation on what were once the Malaria-infested shores of Lake Kinneret it is doubtful that they would recognize it - or approve of what it has become.

As if to symbolize the dramatic transformation which has overtaken the whole of the kibbutz movement, the first communally-owned cattle shed built in the searing heat 650 feet below sea level has recently been converted into an air-conditioned luxury cinema. Close by, the imposing water tower that once provided a vital lifeline is now empty, its contents replaced by a computer terminal controlling the advanced irrigation system of the 100-acre complex of industry and agriculture which boasts an annual turnover of \$10m a year.

The 600 members - like those of the movement as a whole, more than 90 per cent of them are Ashkenazis, or Israelis of European descent - have access to their own water skis and sailing boats, car pool, floodlit tennis courts, a newly-opened Olympic size swimming pool, riding stables and an in-house video system installed because it proved the only way of maintaining the kibbutz tradition of a weekly general meeting in the face of competition from Israel TV's most popular sports programme. This is now recorded so that the kibbutzniks can watch it later, having attended the forum which still takes all decisions communally, either by show of hands or secret ballot.

Instead of the original system of a battered cash box and an accompany-

ing "honesty book" which provided Degania residents with their only access to ready cash, all members have cheque books and an overall budget which they are free to spend as they choose - dangerously close, some argue, to the dreaded concept of a wage. Most also prefer to eat their evening meals at home in their kitchenettes - less humble than those to be found in many Israeli homes - rather than trek to the communal dining hall. But all still have to do their regular turn of waiting on their fellows.

"Like every other institution in Israel, we have had to adapt to circumstances, to change in order to survive, and we think that so far we have succeeded", explains Yona Shapira, the sprightly 62-year-old daughter of Joseph Baratz, one of Degania's nine original founders. On the wall of her modest house, the closest to the shimmering lake, the photo of her mother's formidable hands - she was the kibbutz milkmaid for more than 30 years - contrasts with the gleaming colour television set now provided free to all Degania families and the telephone installed in each of their houses.

"Of course people from outside, Israelis as well as foreigners, find it hard to reconcile these facilities with their image of a socialist community", explains Ron Shapira, Yona's thoughtful son, who lives with his wife in a house about 300 yards from his parents. He is one of only 50 per cent of kibbutz-born children who now opt to stay living in the system - which he readily admits, many of his fellow countrymen tend to see as anachronistic and damagingly elitist. "They tend to regard us as living in a country club, but for those who belong, these possessions are nothing more than a



Top: The first stone house in Kibbutz Degania stands as a symbol of idealism to the kibbutzniks of today. Above left: The way it was - an isolated settlement on the banks of the Jordan. Above right: The pioneers who founded Degania.

family would buy itself as it got richer."

Another kibbutznik from a younger and smaller community puts the matter more bluntly: "When you are still poor like we are, it is much easier to be ideologically pure."

There are now 276 kibbutzim inside Israel and the occupied territories, accounting for a total membership of 120,000 people, or roughly 3.6 per cent of the population. Just as no kibbutz can be described as representative of the whole, so the type of society to be found inside kibbutzim bears little resemblance to Israel outside, where nearly 60 per cent of the population are Sephardic or Oriental Jews.

Originally born of a peculiarly Jewish fusion of social and national ideals associated with the type of pioneer who gave truth to the age-old cliché of "making the desert bloom", the kibbutz has recently become the target of attack from right-wingers who now make up the majority of Israeli voters. One observer likened the

movement to "a burnt-out rocket" which had achieved its original aim and was no longer relevant. When the Archbishop of York spent a holiday on a Jordan valley kibbutz, the political editor of the *Jerusalem Post* described it acidly as the Israeli equivalent of a visit to an English stately home.

In the early 1970s, a commentator

compared the role of the kibbutz in Israeli life with Eton's in the British Conservative Party because of the high proportion of kibbutzniks filling top cabinet posts. But since the election of the first right-wing Israeli Government in 1977, the continued close association of the movement with the opposition Labour Party has contributed to its increasing isolation from political influence. It is estimated that only 2 per cent of kibbutz voters supported Menachem Begin in the 1981 election.

During that violent campaign, the Prime Minister reinforced the prejudice about the "privileged life" of kibbutzniks by portraying them as

"millionaires" luxuriating in their swimming pools while the townspeople had suffered not so "benign neglect" under Labour rule. A much cruder message was contained in a notorious election pamphlet depicting kibbutzim as a many-headed monster devouring the population of Israel's poor development towns.

The majority of kibbutzniks, who because of their high standard of education tend to be among the most articulate and cultured of Israelis, are acutely conscious of the problem, which is related to one of the fundamental changes in the movement - the switch from agriculture to

industry. The original tenet forbidding the employment of outside labour has long been discarded, although one of the two main kibbutz groups is now attempting to rectify matters by imposing financial sanctions on members who move away from hiring outsiders. "It is hard for us to be socialist allies of poor Israelis and their employers at the

same time", explains David Twersky, ex-editor of the Kibbutz magazine *Shadmot*.

The switch to industry is illustrated by the statistics. In 1950 there were only 50 factories throughout the whole movement; by 1982 this had reached 325, often grouped on a regional basis with an enviable productivity record. In all, they employed 30 per cent of their labour from outside, a proportion that seriously concerns those who fear the ideological cement of the movement is gradually being eroded.

Just as immediately after the Second World War, kibbutz elders fretted about whether their experimental institution would survive the import of the radio sets and coffee pots being brought back from Europe by returning snipers, there is new concern about whether the uniquely Israeli version of communal Utopia can survive the television, the family dining table and the growing pressure from parents to have their children sleeping at home.

Because of demands from second and third generation kibbutzniks who have now become parents (men and women tend to marry inside the movement, but not inside their own kibbutz, where a surrogate sibling relationship predominates), more and more kibbutzim are voting to keep their children at home overnight.

"It was a very traumatic decision, but most parents agree it was a right one", explains Mrs Karen Lior, the mother of two children whose kibbutz near Tel Aviv made the move last year after months of heated arguments. "When they were sleeping centrally, the system always broke down when the kids played up, because in the end the parents had to be called to handle them."

Kibbutzniks frequently refer to their way of life as a repository of many of the old-fashioned virtues in a fast changing urban society. "We are one of the few places in 1983 where the extended as well as the nuclear family is thriving", argues Twersky, who at the age of 33 is regarded as one of the up and coming leaders of the kibbutz movement.

With singles weekends now centrally organized for lonely members, beauty salons an accepted feature of many kibbutzim and the atmosphere more often than not that of a merciful, rural retreat from the asphalt jungle of Israel's urban sprawl, the reality of kibbutz living is now radically altered from the vision of its founding fathers.

By a bitter irony for a Marxist-socialist movement which started out rejecting the religious norms of traditional Jewish life in the European ghettos, the pioneering mantle once carried by the kibbutz is now being claimed by Gush Emunim (The Block of the Faithful), the extreme religious-nationalist movement which under the Begin Government has spearheaded the wave of Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank.

Much as western statesmen anxious for Middle East peace may regret it, there now seems little chance of the clock being turned back. In present day Israel the bearded, heavily armed zealots of the Gush have become the pace-setters while the more moderate kibbutz movement appears to be moving contentedly into middle age.

Burton and Taylor are together again, but only on stage

A public playback of private lives

They agreeably went away and returned later to ask if, perhaps, the kitchen could still do eggs. It did.

At the Copley Plaza, where Miss Taylor and her entourage had been equally quiet, Miss Taylor has been using a side door to come and go, virtually unrecognizable.

Rehearsals have been closed to the press. The actors had only three weeks to rehearse, and faced with what Zev Bufman, the producer, said

grabbing all 1,750 seats in the Shubert Theater for all 17 performances. New York sales have also been tremendous.

Producer Bufman denies the rumour that Miss Taylor and Burton are getting \$78,000 a week each for the production. But, he says, they are getting more money than a Broadway actor or actress has ever received in a play-and when the play closes in Los Angeles, he says, the cast will tape *Private Lives* for showing on Home Box Office cable, in a deal negotiated for, close to \$3m.

Additionally, the tape will be used as a film in cinemas in Europe and elsewhere.

The treasury for all this coin

is the Elizabeth Theater Group,

a production company formed by Bufman and the 51-year-old,

slimmed down Miss Taylor.

Bufman produced *The Little Foxes* two years ago, in which

Miss Taylor made her Broadway debut.

Burton, who has spoken candidly of his battles with alcoholism - he freely admits that he has days or weeks when he goes on a bender, but not when he works, Bufman says - appears dry but, if not, chasing Miss Taylor slowly around a table or simply rising from a couch carries himself as carefully as a winter would glasses on a film tray.

Aged 37, he underwent surgery on the vertebrae in his neck, a procedure called a cervical laminectomy, in April 1981, after being forced to drop out of *Cameron in California*. He resumed acting in January 1982, but was still wearing a neck brace a month ago when he began rehearsals for *Private Lives*. He is said to have since cast it off, and indeed, he seemed a bit more vigorous in Wednesday night's performance than he did on Tuesday - the result, perhaps, of chasing Miss Taylor about the stage six days a week.

Like old times, the audience assumes "You know," said Betty Hourihan, the wife of a Boston lawyer, after watching Burton pursue Miss Taylor round a table, "you think you're watching their real lives".

Or, as Burton whispered to Miss Taylor after a crowd swept away the rest of the party and pressed in on the two of them at the couple's one appearance at a public benefit last week: "Here we go again".

Leaving their new partners to

the puzzled pang of untested

beds, they run on to Paris for

new rounds of love, hilarity and

combat. It sounds a bit like the

private lives of its stars, the

twice-married, twice-divorced

(from each other) Burton and

Taylor.

Only once have Burton and his secretary-companion, Sally Hayes, come downstairs for breakfast, and that was when the hotel cafe had already closed to make the lunch changeover.



Star-crossed lovers: Burton and Taylor kiss for a curtain call after playing *Private Lives*

Dudley Cleminden
© New York Times, 1983

The hidden depths of clam chowder

MOREOVER... Miles Kington

Some years ago I was sitting in the library of the United States Information Service in Grosvenor Square. I must have been there for a purpose - perhaps the end of the visa queue was in there that day - but I have no recollection of what it was. All I can remember is that the phone suddenly rang in the calm of the library and an English librarian went to answer it.

"Hello," she said. There was a pause. Then she said: "Hold on, I'll look it up for you." She put the phone down and turned to a colleague. "Jesus Christ," she said bitterly. "Can you imagine a guy ringing up to find out what the state flower of Georgia is? Was it for this I went to college?"

Well, yes, I can imagine someone ringing up to find out that sort of useless information. It's the only sort that ever sticks with me. I am a compulsive reader of small, useless instructions, of lists of ingredients on boxes, of credit at the end of films. Who is Otis Zeffkind and why is he Gaffer? What is disodium inosinate, and how does it improve clam powder? These are the kinds of question I want to ask. I am not sure I want to know the answers, but I very much want to ask the questions.

It is for this reason that I have, hanging over my desk a small dossier of clippings from here and there, which I have left till they should mature into a small piece for *The Times*, a page full of unanswered questions and, I hope, sort of plaintive poetry. Poetry? Certainly. If a list of anything goes on long enough, as Beachcomber proved with the Huntington cabin, it acquires a strange lyrical quality.

Take the clam chowder: for instance.

It contains no detergent (and is

therefore non-foaming) and merely transcribes their ingredients.

"Sea salt, extracts of kelp, myrrh, and horsechestnut, blackthorn fruit juice, sodium bicarbonate, sodium sulphate, sodium silicate, ascorbic acid, methyl cellulose (thickener), silica, vegetable glycerine, essential oils of lavender, clove, geranium, sage, eucalyptus, aniseed and peppermint, menthol, homeopathic potency of arum lily ash."

After all these years I cannot

even begin to guess what the state flower of Georgia is but I can tell you the state flower of Pennsylvania. The state dog is the Great Dane. The state tree is the hemlock. The state animal is the white tail deer. The state bird (are you getting into the spirit of this?) is the ruffed grouse. But, and this is where a note of melancholy creeps in, the final entry reads: "State song - there is no official song".

No song for Pennsylvania? What then do they sing when they get together leading their great dances, wearing their mountain laurels and waving their state flags (state colours are blue and gold)? I do not know. I am not sure I want to know. But there is a hint at the end of the pamphlet: for additional information on Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania, they say, "consult The Encyclopedia Britannica" (Volume P).

Is this the only work written on Pennsylvania? Will it tell us why they have no song? Or, indeed, why they cannot even spell Britannica correctly? I think we should not be told.

One of the more recent pamphlets I have received from Mr Engel is entitled *Significant Incidents in the History of Pittsburgh*. As there are only

eleven of these, including a fire

and the opening of Pittsburgh's first cinema, I will not go into them on this occasion, but I am held transfixed by the state information on Pennsylvania.

The state dog is the Great Dane.

The state tree is the hemlock.

The state animal is the white tail deer.

The state bird (are you getting into the spirit of this?) is the ruffed grouse. But, and this is where a note of melancholy creeps in, the final entry reads:

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CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 44)

ACROSS	1	Crustaceans (7)	2	3	4	5	6	7
	5	Mother (5)	8					
	8	Definite article (3)	9					
	9	Parade (7)	10					
	10	Decent plan (5)	11					
	11	Mid leg (4)	12					
	12	Desert (3)	13					
	13	For a short time on (6,7)	14					
	14	Fragrant scent (7)	15					
	15	As well (4)	16					

FRIDAY PAGE

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Life-saving screen tests

Cancer of the breast and of the ovary together account for more than 16,000 deaths in British women every year. The figures would be dramatically reduced if diagnoses were made earlier.

Screening breasts with soft tissue X-ray, mammography, enables radiologists to find the tumour when it is still so small that it is impossible to feel with the hand. At this stage a patient's chances of complete recovery are good.

Professor Stuart Campbell, who screens patients with ultrasound at King's College Hospital, hopes to be able to recognize such small changes in the size and shape of the ovary that cancer may be diagnosed at a stage when treatment will be able to change the present 75 per cent death rate to 90 per cent cure rate.

Further advances in screening are announced this week by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Dr Richard Bulbrook and his team in cooperation with Mr John Hayward from Guy's Hospital, have for the past 20 years been analysing the blood and urine of 13,000 Guernsey women.

Significant abnormalities have been detected in the hormone levels in the urine of women who later developed breast cancer. For 10 years before a cancer can be detected the urine of women at greatest risk contains less than usual amounts of androgen steroid metabolites.

Post-menopausal women who have higher than usual blood levels of prolactin, another hormone, have twice the risk. Hormonal patterns in women who are at risk of cancer of the ovaries are also found to be abnormal.

Not only will these biochemical findings be particularly useful in that they extend and complement the radiological means of early diagnosis which already exist, but the Imperial Cancer Research workers hope that it may be possible to find means of changing the hormonal balance in a patient so that these particular cancers become less common.

There is evidence that taking the Pill, which is one way of changing the hormone balance, does achieve this.

An eternal race

This year is the one hundred and twentieth anniversary of the death of William Thackeray and the intellectual end of London clubland is honouring his memory; the Reform has already had a dinner to pay its respects, the Athenaeum is holding a reception in July. The irony is that, if the great man had been in a position to attend in body rather than in spirit, the wine drunk would certainly have exacerbated the distress he suffered from a post-gonococcal urethral stricture. Appropriately, in this year gonorrhoea is again in the news.

Effective treatment of gonorrhoea became possible only with the introduction of sulphonamides in the 1930s, before then patients were subjected to bladder and urethral wash-outs with powerful antisepic solutions, procedures euphemistically known as deep irrigation. After this treatment about 5 per cent of the sufferers developed, as did Thackeray, varying degrees of urinary tract obstruction, probably more likely to have been due to the use of the instruments than the disease itself.

Since the 1930s there has been a recurring story of an apparently miracle drug being found to treat gonorrhoea, only for the bacteria to become resistant to it.

The value of sulphonamides as a treatment was rendered useless by the way in which the Germans made it readily available, without supervision, to their troops in Italy. Penicillin, despite being very scarce, superseded sulphonamides in the British Army on the express orders of General Montgomery, but this, in its turn has been beaten by some of the strains of the gonococcal bacteria bred during and after the Vietnam war producing an enzyme which destroys penicillin.

Fortunately, two comparatively new antibiotics, cefotaxime and cefotaxime are available, but if the race between gonorrhoea and science continues, sooner or later the bacteria may go into the lead.

Beating breakdowns

When Beryl Downing, The Times shopping editor, was treated for breast cancer at St Bartholomew's Hospital this month, she had radiotherapy with the first Varian standing wave linear accelerator in Britain (The Times, April 20). It is due to be opened officially by Sir Eric Scovell next Wednesday.

The NHS could not afford to replace the existing old machine, so the special trustees of the hospital, a charitable organization, paid more than £150,000 for a new American one. The cost of the installation was borne by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund as a major contribution in support of the work it does with the Cancer Unit at Bart's.

Increasingly, radio cobalt units have been replaced by travelling wave linear accelerators. The manufacturers of the Varian machine standing wave accelerator claim that the new machine has the advantage of greater reliability and improved focusing.

Doctors always try to ensure that a patient's programme of treatment, which has to be carefully calculated, should not be compromised by equipment failure; by reducing the electronic complexity of the linear accelerator the possibility of breakdown is reduced.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford
Medical correspondent



Shirley Lowe meets the woman who kept a generation of gossip writers busy

It is less than 10 minutes from Lana Turner's high-rise condominium in Beverly Hills to my hotel, but she arrives in a chauffeur-driven limousine, accompanied by her hairdresser.

Miss Turner is 62 and she has been a Hollywood star for 45 years. Other sex symbols - Harlow and Hayworth, Mansfield and Monroe - have self-destructed, but the original Sweater Girl has survived seven marriages, dozens of highly publicized love affairs, the fatal stabbing of her daughter lover by her 14-year-old daughter, a drinking problem and, among such classics as *The Bad and the Beautiful* and *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, some pretty

films.

She knows that a star never agrees to go anywhere without a limousine, a chauffeur and a hairdresser, never goes out unless she is looking her best. "When I leave home, I'm on," she says.

Her entrance is impeccably gracious. A tilt of the short blonde hair-do, newly crimped by her escort. A hand, tipped by perfect pink nails of alarming length, extended in warm greeting. She sashays elegantly across the room in well-cut black slacks, a tasteful glittery blouse and high-heeled black slippers. The movie queen up there on the screen with the big bust is, in fact, petite. That's the word she would use. I think. Just 5ft 3in with the flawless face and figure of a well-preserved 30-year-old, and if plastic surgery has helped a bit, we should all try it.

Miss Turner - you don't find yourself calling her "Lana" - speaks slowly, with a lot of lovely hand gestures, and her language is relentlessly refined.

She was discovered in the ice cream parlour opposite her school when she was 15 and became a star with her first film, when she was 17. She went to school on the MGM lot with the young Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney, gossiped and

was 19 and he promised her marriage and children and a cottage with roses round the door (the marriage lasted four months).

Lana Turner had two abortions

for propriety's sake and it sometimes seems as though her life has

been ruled by reporters. "If I blew my nose wrong, they'd write about it," she says, "and if they had

nothing to write about they'd say:

"Let's see what we can make up about Lana Turner today."

On the morning after her third marriage, to society playboy Bob Topping, Lana and her bridegroom stepped out of their honeymoon bungalow to find Hedda Hopper finishing up the

remains of their breakfast and waiting for an "exclusive" on their wedding night.

"She was a crass, rude woman,"

says Miss Turner, "but what do you

do? Tell her to get her so and so ass out of here?" It was when this marriage failed that Miss Turner attempted suicide. "My love hadn't been enough. I was completely unlovable, a wholly unworthy human being."

Writing about her time with Tyrone Power, who broke her heart by marrying Linda Christian rather than Lana when his divorce came through, she confesses that she was not a great companion in bed: "What we shared was far more important than the physical side of our love... sex was never, with any man, the first thing on my mind... it was so much what I symbolized, so much of my image, that I closed myself off to the pleasures of the act. Holding hands, cuddling, being close together in bed, all those intimacies I enjoyed more than the actual sex... his gentleness was part of the reason I loved him."

Stars in the 1940s and 1950s were expected to be pure in public and the Turner-Power affair made headlines. "In those days you didn't live with someone, you married them," says Miss Turner, "Just look at what happened to Ingrid Bergman when she defied the studios and had Rosalind's babies without marrying him."

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This was the weakest moment of her life. Somehow, she has always found the strength to cope with public humiliation and private rejection; when her marriages failed, when her men deserted her; when she was censured over the upbringing of her daughter, Cheryl had a classic Hollywood childhood with lavish parties and furs and strings of stepfathers and ponies and a mother who with the best will in the world, was forced to spend more time in the studio than the nursery. There were "special" schools and psychiatric centres and plenty of publicized rows between mother and daughter, but Cheryl, now 39, is running a successful real estate business in Honolulu and has turned out better than Miss Turner ever hoped. "I not only love her as a mother, I respect her. I'm the first to look at her and say: 'Like that young woman!'

The two of them still find it impossible to talk freely about the terrible night when Cheryl stabbed Johnny Stompanato to death with a kitchen knife after she heard him threatening to beat up her mother. They call it "the happening". But, in spite of the trial (justifiable homicide), and the trauma of seeing her child behind bars, Lana Turner went on to an Oscar nomination, to a successful theatre career, to the unlikely role of a grandmother in a television series called *Falcon Crest*.

"Many times I've said, 'This, too, will pass,'" she says. "Now, I can say, 'Okay, it's not going to come over too close. I will come up and over this and be a better person.' I guess there was always a bit of that in me."

Ever since she eloped with bandleader Artie Shaw, when she

was 19, and he promised her marriage and children and a cottage with roses round the door (the marriage lasted four months), Lana Turner has had a man in her life: "I married seven of them and I'm not proud of it. I always felt that a man would make my life complete, only to find out when I got to know them that I was stronger than any of them. Now, I like the fact that I do not have to depend on another human being to get me through a day, a week or a night."

Now, Miss Turner has found God. "He has always been in my life. He never left me, but I lost Him", she says. In the late 1970s she was very ill. "It had to do with a hangover. I never got drunk or had a hangover. I didn't even appear to drink heavily. It was insidious. I was a sinner there and I was taking small sips each day. I wasn't aware I was doing it. Finally, I became so ill that this beloved man, sitting right here in this room, said: 'I've made an appointment for you to see a doctor and don't say no.' My brother here", she indicates her hairdresser, "he truly saved my life."

Miss Turner went to the doctor, who asked her if she was willing to give up alcohol to get her health back and a strange thing happened: "A light came straight into my head, and I said to the doctor, 'You've got a deal.' I stuck out my hand and it was a three-way partnership. God, the doctor and me. I never went through withdrawal I never craved a drink. That came from a supreme power and to this very moment He still guides me."

As she exits, Miss Turner says: "God bless you and keep you safe. Write well and write with heart." Her right hand rests briefly, lightly on her left breast.

It is, I say, a treat to meet her and everyone I know thinks I am very lucky to have the opportunity. She chuckles: "I expect they all said: 'You must tell me what she's really like...'"

What she's really like is a genuine movie queen, the sort of solid gold superstar Hollywood doesn't manufacture any more.

Lana, the Lady, the Legend, the Truth, was published by New English Library yesterday, price £2.95.

The 'bête noire' who bit back for animal rights



Angela Walder, with her dog Gandhi, at the BUAV offices

Angela Walder, a clear-eyed 37-year-old, would pass unnoticed in a very small crowd. She impresses you with the matter-of-factness you might expect from a nurse or a teacher; yet the former Home Office Chief Inspector under the Cruelty to Animals Act, Colonel Vines, calls her "an hysterical... a troublemaker, part in the neck", and a former president of the Research Defence Society, who candidly admits "She's my bête noire", adds that she's "a right battlefield".

Angela Walder's particular value to the animal rights movement is that she worked in a cancer research laboratory as an animal technician for 15 years before joining the opposition.

Every morning at half past eight about the Costa Brava nightclub in the Charing Cross Road she begins an 11-hour day as scientific advisor to the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection. As World Day for laboratory animals approaches the offices have been open six and seven days a week. Beside the research papers to be read, the letters and lectures, the collating of new statistics and the publishing of the *Liberator*, there has been the complicated organization of Sunday's march from Clapham to Carshalton involving seven meetings with the police.

BUAV is an angry, active movement that has outgrown the respectable image of the National Anti-Vivisection Society. Young vegetarians and Positive Punks have replaced kindly middle-aged ladies in hats.

Angela Walder's first job was as an animal technician with a local drugs firm. "There was a careless attitude to life. A researcher will ask for large numbers of animals to be bred and then go off for a seminar or a holiday. When he comes back the animals are the wrong age for the experiment, so they are all killed."

At 19 she joined the new Institute of Animal Technicians and in 1965 went to the Gray Laboratory to look after the animals bred for cancer research. She had decided that she could do more for the animals inside the system than outside.

Angela remembers Dr Gray, the director of the establishment, with affection. "He was a decent chap. He said to me that if I saw something I didn't like I could come and discuss it with him at any time. I could say to him or to Dr Hewitt 'Must the experiment be done like that? Couldn't we design it like this instead, and cut down on the number of animals used?'"

When Dr Gray died, his place as director was taken by Professor Fowler, a medical physicist with, despite the title, no medical qualifications. His first move was to double

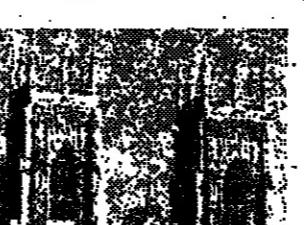
THE TIMES Saturday

THE INDISPENSABLE WEEKEND GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS PUBLISHED EACH WEEK WITH THE TIMES

In tomorrow's edition



Survival guide for the cyclist trapped in the urban jungle



Travel: The hidden wonders of Iceland; and a walking tour of historic York

Review: David Bowie's new success

Values: Get in the swim with your own pool for summer

Theatre: Helen Mirren stars in

the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of *The Roaring Girl*

Plus

The top gardening column; aperitifs; the fine art of carpet collecting; Family Life on what you should allow your children to read; Critics' choice of the best in films, theatre, galleries, classical music, rock and jazz, dance, opera and films on television; bridge; chess; and the leading guide to The Week Ahead in arts and entertainment

Georgina Howell

JP II



Fortress Camden

Having basked in the media attention when publicity focused on troubles at *The Times* (my best friends call me Blabbermouth) I feel sorry for the terrorized staff at TV-am. They scuttle from their Camden Lock-up not even daring to nod to reporters whose offices they ring every night begging for stories they might follow. "I'll be thrown in the cauld if I tell you anything", one poor chum whispered as he crept past. Two very large minders guard the entrance, flushing out reporters who seek shelter from the rain and watching that no one talks. On Wednesday even the company's press officer would only say: "The only statement I have to make is that I am going home." Mind you, he said it with relief.

Black mark

An indignant parent has provided me with an extract from his son's school geography exercise on South Africa, headed "Black Workers": "The blacks have to do things like mining because they aren't very clever. So they are given silly jobs like washing things and mining. They live in huts because they are so thick they don't complain about wages. While they are slogging away, the English are having cups of tea, and generally sitting on their backsides and doing nothing and living in big houses with lots of money". For this effort the lad, a pupil of Ravens Wood School, Bromley, was awarded eight marks out of ten.

Race demands from Islington borough council, whose activities frequently amaze, are accompanied by a selection of leaflets including one introducing Britain's Most Powerful Shower. No, no, no the committee chairmen just an advertisement from a firm of sanitary engineers.

True or false?

Chile has proposed to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, meeting in Botswana, that it should continue to protect the Alerce false larch tree, provided that trade is permitted in dead specimens. Unusual as it is, the Alerce false larch, like all other trees, has the habit of becoming a dead specimen when it is cut down.

BARRY FANTONI



"I hope that means that if we don't like her election manifesto we'll be able to take it back and change it"

Girl guides

Of 800 who applied to take the London Tourist Board's course for guides, and 21 awarded their blue badges yesterday, Lady Jane Howard, daughter of Lord Waldegrave, was judged best of all. Part of her prize is a weekend in Cork. Lady Jane says she studied London on a boneshaker bicycle, and was often mistaken for a would-be lady taxi driver in search of "the knowledge". Three quarters of approved guides are women: LTB officials say it is to do with their being motherly and good with groups. That fits Lady Jane six children.

I have received a letter from Jahanir Dadabhai Challa of Bombay, and am rather taken with his letterhead. "High Class Caterer", it says. "Marriage and Navjot Dinners, Reception in Wadi & Fields."

Girling?

Kallaway, the sponsorship consultancy, keeps a list of perfect sponsorships: if only (like Bryant & May and *The Matchgirls*) they could be arranged. Favours, of course, are *Oedipus Rex* backed by Mothercare and *Hamlet* brought to you by Danish Bacon. Kent Opera's *Fidelio* at Sadler's Wells has, appropriately, been benefiting Amnesty International collectors stationed outside. Now the company is seeking sponsors for next year's *Il Seraglio*. Any suggestions?

With Mrs PHS, as author of *Secrets of the Face*, running round the country telling people that the thicker their eyebrows are, the better the state of their kidneys, I am not surprised to see that the palmists are back. In this week's *New Scientist* it is reported that researchers in Hyderabad have discovered that fingerprints can show susceptibility to duodenal ulcers. If you have many whorls, few loops and patterned palms, watch out. As soon as she comes home I am going to get Mrs PHS to study the Phisiognomy and tell me why I have not had ulcers for ages.

PHS

Third World aid must not be cut

While the Prime Minister prepared last week to meet Tom Clausen, President of the World Bank, she received some tough advice in *The Times* from one of her newly created peers, Lord Bauer, and his economist colleague Professor Basil Yamey, about the growing dangers of giving aid to developing nations: In an exclusive interview with David Watt after his visit to Downing Street, Mr Clausen replied in the Tory critics, beginning with the waste and extravagance of Third World governments.

Clausen: Everything is imperfect and development aid misses now and then. But I would say the overwhelming weight of evidence speaks in the other direction. Take a look at the completed projects that have occurred in World Bank lending. The bank does not finance or tackle the support of any developing country unless we are convinced it will produce at least an economic rate of return of 10 per cent. The average of completed projects has been 17 per cent in bank lending, 17.9 in international Development Association projects. In the last four years the rate of return for agricultural projects has been 22 to 27 per cent on average. It's a good return in anybody's language. (These are not financial rates of return but economic rates of return.)

Watt: Suppose you find that that rate is going down in a particular country. What sanctions do you have?

Clausen: Clearly we watch the directions. We want to learn from mistakes as quickly as we can. The world does change and we also want to build on strength and successes. But performance depends on a great many things under control and out of control, and to control economic development in the kind of environment we've had in the last few years is very difficult. Difficult, in developed countries, let alone in developing countries.

The World Bank and the development aid agencies do not deal in development themselves - we are dealing with sovereign nations and sovereign nations have their own views as to what the priorities are. We do not however finance every project that a country puts on our table saying, "We'd like to help on this." We appraise it and if we think it is suitable and will give a rate of return we'll support it. If it's a white elephant, then a moral and financial institution like the World Bank, unlike other kinds of aid agencies, is able to have a policy dialogue with the country.

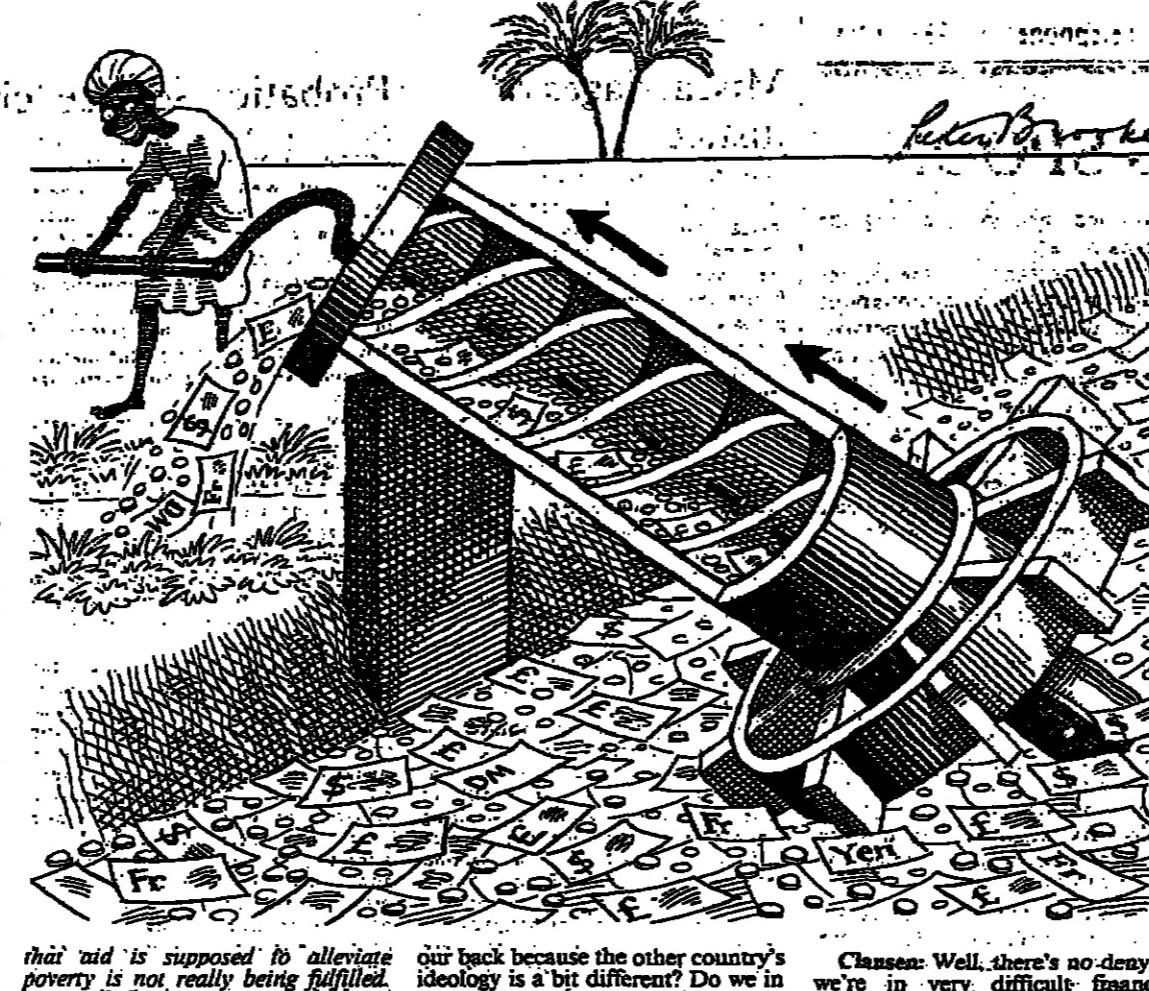
What is important is our experience. We are able to advise a developing country in a non-politicized way, in terms of economics and what will produce economic returns and raise the standard of living of people.

Watt: If a country decides to spend \$1 billion dollars on, say, building a new capital and you think it's a bad idea and a misallocation of resources, would you feel free to say so?

Clausen: We would feel free to say so and we do say where we do not approve. I myself sent a message to a head of government in which we said, "This is not the most desirable place or mechanism to achieve your objective and we cannot support it. However, if you like another instrument to achieve the objective and do it in these stages and, these locations, we'll support you."

We have the courage to do that. The government has the final say-so but we also have the final say-as-to whether we want to support projects that we don't think fit the strategy of the government.

Watt: The critics say the claim



that aid is supposed to alleviate poverty is not really being fulfilled. Do you feel that?

Clausen: I would say there is a tremendous amount more, that needs to be done. But we take to heart the mandate that we feel we have, from developed countries and developing to make sure that we are alleviating pain and poverty. That is why our highest economic priorities are agriculture and rural development because 80 per cent of those people at or below the poverty level live in rural areas. If we can help the poor people and the poorest of the people living in the agricultural areas to increase their standard of living while helping them as entrepreneurs, we leave something permanently in place. We do provide something physical - an irrigation system, a transportation system, a port, institutions, education institutions, health institutions, railway systems. We are not interested in handing money to governments who can then say, "One for me and two for them..."

I would say that if you and I were to jump up on Mars and look down on planet Earth and look at only the last 20 years we should note that the lifespan of individuals in the developing countries has grown from the lower 40s to the mid 50s. If you look at literacy, at health care, at standards of living, there are admittedly huge gaps. But our emphasis is on those in the bottom part of the global pyramid and our role is to advance the standard of living of these peoples. Anybody who stands on a box and says that development assistance does not help promote that is speaking without the fundamentals of empirical evidence under him.

Watt: Let me turn to another set of criticisms. What answer do you give to people who say, "Why should we put up money for these countries? We've got no responsibility for them. They're hostile to us. They're not our friends. Do we have a better chance for friendship with help or through business?"

Clausen: I can't buy that philosophy. I think there is more to be gained, by fostering trade on a rational economic basis than there is by excluding and isolating countries because of political ideologies. People are people whether they are in the east or the west.

Watt: Another set of arguments I should mention concerns the debt of debt. Critics say that by lending more or by rolling over an existing debt you are encouraging Third World countries to carry on as they have before in a reckless fashion.

Clausen: I would like the seven

strongest nations to realize that the developed countries cannot pull-themselves out of the economic mess that we find ourselves in by excluding and isolating countries.

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C



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STRATEGY OF THE LONG SPOON

Lord Carrington was right to raise the thorny subject of British-Soviet relations yesterday, when he called on the West to start a new dialogue with the USSR, especially in view of the imminent departure to Moscow of Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office. It will be the first bilateral visit by a British visitor since 1977. The years between have been marked by a growing rift, caused not only by Soviet policy in Afghanistan and Poland, but also by a general inability to accept as valid the ideology of the other side.

A senior Soviet political commentator, Alexander Bovin, who is now in London for the discussions of the Anglo-Soviet Round Table held in Chatham House, stated on BBC television on Wednesday that he saw no prospects for constructive dialogue with the United States while President Reagan remains in office. Bovin expressed particular annoyance at Reagan's attack on the USSR as an "empire of evil" but politely avoided repeating his usual *Izvestiya* attacks on the evils of the capitalist West.

This Soviet attitude is clearly not helpful. If the armed blocs wait until they approve of each other's system before conducting serious negotiations, the industrialized world could remain indefinitely in its present dangerous state, or come to ashes in a nuclear holocaust.

Britain has a particularly important role to play in this East-West dialogue, being firmly of Western Europe, yet having a "special relationship" with the United States which must remain a cornerstone of our foreign policy. What should our aims be in this vital dialogue?

In the matter of defence there is a sound basis for agreement with Mr Yuri Andropov's dis-

missal of unilateralism as "naive". If the USSR can be persuaded to remove its SS-20 missiles only by the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles in Britain and other European countries, then deployed they must be. Lord Carrington pointed out the need for Western Europe to play a bigger defence role. This must be complementary to NATO; it can certainly be no substitute for the Atlantic alliance.

The foreign policy of our two systems can never be reconciled. While the West's understanding of "peaceful coexistence" can be summarized as "live and let live", the Soviet leaders are committed to the definition in their Party programme that peaceful coexistence "furthers the world socialist revolution and helps mankind to accomplish the transition from capitalism to socialism". The theory of "socialist internationalism" by which the USSR justifies even armed interference in the internal affairs of its own satellites, once known in the West as the Brezhnev doctrine, has smoothly and almost imperceptibly become the Andropov doctrine.

Just as Britain has never accepted as legal the *de facto* incorporation of the Baltic states in the USSR - victims of the Nazi-Soviet pact of 1939 - we should not accept the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan or interference in Poland. What can be done about it is another matter. The Kabul regime may arrest a French doctor, but supplying medical aid to the Afghans is clearly a moral duty, whatever Moscow may say. Supplying radio transmitters is also reasonable. The wisdom of encouraging even unofficial deliveries of weapons must first, however, be carefully debated, although no moral scruples

restrained the USSR during the Vietnam war.

It is important that the Soviet leaders are left in no doubt about British determination to persist, through the United Nations Organization and other forums, with denunciations of Soviet interference in other states. They have never hesitated to distort events in Northern Ireland and the Falklands, although there can be no comparison with Soviet policy in Afghanistan and Poland, but also by a general inability to accept as valid the ideology of the other side.

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The USSR has long been skilled at exploiting the competitive urges of Western businessmen. The ban on all goods of strategic significance must be tightened. Even if means can be found to overcome such sanctions, the cost to the Soviet military budget generally rises. Where trade can grow to the mutual advantage of the peoples of both blocks, why not encourage it to the full? Cultural exchanges on a clearly reciprocal basis might also be allowed to expand again. The West certainly impresses Soviet visitors, and some defect. But there are no defections to the USSR by Western tourists.

THE POLITICS OF GRIEF

To turn away Argentine mourners after making such handsome provision for relatives of the British dead to visit the Falkland Islands has an appearance of harshness. Their grief is presumably no less, their desire to honour the graves with their presence as natural, and their claim on human sympathy as great.

But the matter is not as simple as that. In defeat the Argentine junta showed a numb indifference towards their captured soldiers on the islands and towards the dead that lay there. They ignored repeated British offers to facilitate the removal of the bodies to their homeland for burial. It fell to the British to give them burial, and that was done with care and soldierly respect. Two hundred and twenty-two bodies have been gathered, less than half of them identified, and they lie each marked by a plain white cross in a cemetery behind the hill at Darwin.

Such inhumane indifference on the part of the Argentine authorities seems to require a political explanation. Perhaps since they could not hold Las Malvinas with the living, they left their dead as token of their claim. At any rate there is good reason to suspect that elements in Argentina will seek at some stage to exploit the presence of

these fallen soldiers in order to embarrass the British or rally patriotic sentiment. The nature of the present attempt to arrange a visit from Argentina does not help to dispel one of that suspicion. The organizers, the Centre of Volunteers for the Fatherland, are a patriotic ginger group and their insistence on sailing under the Argentine flag is a deliberate challenge to the attitude adopted by the British.

The British Government is willing to permit relatives of the Argentine dead on the Falklands to visit their graves: it is not willing to allow any visit to be exploited for political ends or excessively embarrass the Falklanders. It has therefore committed the arrangements to the International Committee of the Red Cross, attaching a number of conditions all of which the ICRC has accepted.

One is that the visit should be organized and supervised by the ICRC. Others are that visitors should be close relatives of the dead, their names supplied in advance and verified by the Red Cross; that the vessel must not be under an Argentine flag or crew; that it should be inspected by the ICRC before departure; that no press or cameramen should be included; that the visitors should be accommodated on the vessel and escorted by church organizations.

SOMETHING OFF THE TOP OF THE CAP

The combined efforts of the European Commission and Mr Peter Walker appear to be achieving a satisfactory outcome to this year's farm price negotiations in Luxembourg. It could not be described as a spectacular victory, but it is a decidedly welcome contrast to last year's humiliating defeat for Mr Walker, when he tried in vain to prevent a 10.5 per cent increase in intervention prices. His attempt on that occasion to use the so-called "Luxembourg compromise", which allows EEC member states a veto on the plea of overriding national interest, was to his astonishment rejected by the then united forces of the Commission and the Council of Ministers.

This time round, however, the Commission was determined upon moderation. If there was any doubt about that, it was dispelled by Mr Poul Dalsager, the Agricultural Commissioner, earlier this week when he warned the assembled ministers that spending on the common agricultural policy was racing out of control, and that this year's shortfall might be as much as £1.200m.

Thus, knowing that they had an ally in Mr Walker, the commissioners let it be known that any change in their proposed 4.2 per cent average price

to and from the cemetery in the course of a single day.

These are reasonable conditions on which to insist (except that it is a bad principle, and betrays nervousness, to preclude eye-witness reporting of the event). Since the ICRC is unable to conclude arrangements with the Volunteers for the Fatherland because they will not agree to the Red Cross requirements of neutrality, the Government is unquestionably right to forbid entry to that particular expedition.

Nevertheless, the British position is vulnerable to misrepresentation, especially in Latin America. It will be necessary to make very plain the willingness of the Government to open the cemetery to the relatives of the men it holds, and the reasons for the conditions imposed. It would be advisable to go further. Allowance must be made for the islanders' understandable reluctance to have Argentines back so soon in any capacity whatever. But that should not prevent the Government from taking a more positive position. While still leaving the arrangements in the hands of the ICRC, it could offer some encouragement to the Argentine people by looking out for more suitable sponsors than the present one, whether among the agencies of the Argentine Government or more likely among church organizations.

One result will certainly be to damp down rises in food prices in the shops, although the relationship is not as simple as might be thought. The likelihood that farmers' incomes this year will grow less than their costs may have some effect in curbing production and therefore surpluses, but it will be at best marginal. Moreover, the debate is not yet at an end, since there is now bound to be considerable acrimony over the complex issue of monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs).

MCAs are intended to balance fluctuations between currency values and the more stable Green rates, in which farm prices are calculated. For countries with weak currencies they act as a tax on exports and a subsidy on imports, with the object both of eliminating what is seen as unfair competition and preventing the activities of

speculators who would otherwise be able to buy cheaply in one country and sell profitably into intervention storage in another.

They are inevitably unpopular with farmers in, say, France, who feel they are being deprived of export opportunities offered by the present weakness of the franc. Conversely, their abolition would be strongly opposed by the German lobby which fears a flood of cheap imports.

It is possible to sympathize with both views. British pig farmers have yet to recover from the effects of "negative" MCAs in the 1970s, when sterling was at its weakest, which allowed Danish bacon to gain nearly half the British market. But equally the Germans have a case in arguing that, with products whose prices are centrally fixed in Brussels, they cannot compensate for the strength of the Deutschmark by greater efficiency, as they can in other industries.

The main objection to MCAs, however, is that they directly contradict one of the Community's basic aims, namely a free trade in agricultural products. They are yet another complication in the appallingly cumbersome CAP which, despite this week's welcome news, is as urgently in need of reform as ever.

Miscarriages of justice

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, Those of us concerned with miscarriages of justice in the criminal law will be gladdened by the Government's proposals that in future the Home Secretary will be prepared to refer more cases back to the Court of Appeal and that the Court of Appeal will be ready to receive them.

What gives less cause for satisfaction, however, is the proposal summarized in your leading article (April 14) of the Home Secretary "calling in experienced lawyers to conduct one-man investigations" in particularly complex cases.

The recent history of one-man

investigations by experienced lawyers is not a happy one because of their deep-seated though understandable reluctance to admit that, from time to time, things can go dreadfully wrong.

For instance, the first inquiry into the Evans/Christie case, conducted by the experienced John Scott-Holland QC, used a wealth of "premises" and misleading arguments to conclude that justice had not miscarried. The second inquiry, by Mr Justice Braithwaite, found that Evans had not murdered his child (for which he was hanged) but perversely (for both bodies were found strangled together) that he had murdered his wife.

The report by Sir Henry Fisher on the Conduit case left much to be desired, while just recently we have had Lord Hunter's report on the Median case in which, rather than accept the probability of police planting of evidence and despite Median's free pardon, he incriminated Median as an accessory to the crime in a scenario which owed more to inventiveness than credibility.

By all means let us have experienced lawyers to act as chairmen of these investigations, to lend tone to the proceedings and see they are conducted in a dignified and orderly manner. But if pronouncing on an alleged miscarriage of justice is the aim, let them be joined by two lay assessors that way we are more likely to establish the truth.

As advocates and referees our Bar and Bench are second to none; but they are not the best people for determining whether the system which they and their brethren operate has erred.

There is nothing very radical in this proposal. After all, when judges sum up, they habitually tell juries that while they (the judges) are the authority on the law, it is the juries, or lay assessors, who must reach a verdict on the facts.

Yours etc,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
3 Upper Denzil Terrace,
Edinburgh 4.
April 19.

True, some local record offices already hold registrars' records, but very many would find themselves quite unable to cope with the burdens of space and time which would be created by the transfer of local superintendent registrars' records.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Probation service 'cheeseparing' denied CND's presence at peace meetings

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Home Office

Sir, Lord Wells-Pestell and others (April 19), in expressing their concern at the Home Secretary's decision to reduce the salary scale for probation students, commencing with those who would start courses in 1983, refer to the extent of discussion and debate on the matter. I would like to make four particular points.

First, the changes in the salary scale will not apply to existing students, nor do they in any way touch on the pay of probation officers themselves. The new scales will apply to students who are accepted for sponsorship on courses beginning this coming September, so this letter is misleading to suggest that "every trainee will be worse off".

My second point is that the present system of salaried support by the Home Office for students, who aim to obtain a qualification in social work so that they could seek appointment in the probation service, was introduced in 1970 at a time when there was difficulty in attracting a sufficient number of applicants. It had the effect of placing the students in a favourable position in comparison with students preparing for similar careers (the annual unit cost of probation students is £7,000, compared with £4,000 for DHSS grants to social work students). The present extent of this favoured treatment is no longer justified with the very encouraging number of suitable applicants who now come forward.

Thirdly, in reviewing the salary scale, the opportunity was taken to give greater relative recognition to the special contribution which mature entrants can make to the work of the probation service and to dealing with offenders in the community.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MELLOR,
Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
April 21.

The Home Secretary shares the regret that the National Association of Probation Officers should have decided to hold a one-day strike on April 27 in protest at this decision.

The more so in view of the importance he attaches to the contribution the service makes to dealing with offenders in the community.

Yours faithfully,

PETER A. JENNINER,
Editor, *NATO Review*,

Information Directorate,

North Atlantic Treaty Organization,

1110-Brussels, Belgium.

ministers took note of the extensive improvements the Soviets are making in their long-range theatre forces threatening Nato Europe, especially the SS20 missile, which affords improvements over previous systems in providing greater accuracy and more mobility and in having multiple warheads on each missile.

The opening article in this same issue of *NATO Review* by Alexander Haig (then Secaucus) made a similar point and, turning to the effect that any modernization programme by Nato might have on arms control efforts, Haig insisted that such a programme was "a prerequisite for sound arms control measures", something that subsequent developments would seem to

CHINA

Problems facing the post-Mao leadership may seem to be insuperable barriers to progress but it would be wrong to overlook the Chinese ability to mobilize extraordinary inner resources. David Bonavia reports.

China's history since the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976 has been mainly a search for political stability and for improvements in the living standards of the common people.

At the 12th congress of the Communist Party last year, large numbers of aged revolutionary leaders in Peking were shunted sideways onto special advisory bodies, and younger people were brought on to play more active roles in administration and policy-making.

In the provinces, however, progress towards the reduction of gerontocracy has been slower. The Communist Party, with some 40 million members, is still having difficulty dealing with the estimated 16 million of them who joined during the leftist upheavals of the Cultural Revolution (1966-76) and who are no longer considered politically reliable, or who are dishonest or inefficient.

The outstanding elder statesman of the post-Mao era is Mr Dong Xianping, who still controls China's destinies despite relinquishing formal tenure of his posts as Deputy Chairman of the party, and Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Dong's right-hand man is Mr Zhao Ziyang, the capable and energetic Prime Minister who has contributed much to the progress of economic reform - basically a reversion to cash incentives for workers on farms, in factories and in offices and shops.

This process has entailed a return to family farming in the rural areas, and a large degree of freedom for the peasants to decide what they will grow and to whom they will sell what they do not eat themselves.

After fulfilling the production contracts with local organs, the peasants can sell their produce on the free market both in the countryside and in adjacent rural areas.

Pleased by the success of this



remote areas to which they were exiled under Mao.

The level of tertiary education is still low, and there is a severe shortage of places for school-leavers - who want to pursue it. Unless this problem is solved, China will continue to be technologically backward except in a few prestige areas such as nuclear missiles, in which it is anyway greatly outpaced by the Soviet Union and the United States.

Besides the above towards a weeding-out of the party ranks, which has met strong opposition from entrenched interests in the provinces and the armed forces, the Party is supposed to be in process of separating its ideological, work and moral exhortations to the nation at large, from its previous role as the linchpin of administration and control at all levels.

Officials who previously held high rank both in the party and in the organs of government are being encouraged to opt for one or other of them. In matters of day-to-day administration, the party is supposed to let the newly formed People's Congresses work through the organs of government, intervening only when absolutely necessary.

Progress towards this ideal will necessarily be slow, given the reluctance of officials to lose any of their power and to retire in a timely manner so that younger cadres can take more responsibility.

An associated problem is that of the intellectuals - defined as those with degrees, or specialized knowledge - many of whom have not been satisfactorily rehabilitated since the Cultural Revolution and whose abilities are being wasted on low-powered jobs, often in

through the back door", as the Chinese put it. Personal relations and family alliances are often essential for people to further their careers.

The concern expressed by the leadership at Western cultural influences, coming in the wake of more trade and other contacts with the outside world, seems rather exaggerated, and based on an excessively prudish view of morality.

Chinese young people long to travel abroad, but few will ever have the opportunity or the means. Officials on overseas trips are often berated for spending their time sightseeing and sending home colour television sets.

There is small hope of improvement in standards of living if the present population growth of over 1.1 per cent continues: the city dwellers have on the whole accepted the policy of the one-child family, but the peasants, who make up for some four-fifths of the population, are still keen to have more children, especially boys.

Girl babies are still widely despised, and recently there have been press condemnations of the practice of female infanticide in the rural areas. All these problems would seem to place insuperable barriers to progress. But the Chinese have shown their ability to mobilize extraordinary inner resources too often in the past to be counted out of the global struggle for prosperity and security.

An official who pulls strings to get his or her offspring into a university will be let off with a reprimand or demotion if the matter is uncovered. A worker or peasant will have no strings to pull.

In practice it is hard to achieve any improvement in one's lifestyle without "going to the wall".

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emphasis on improving research and medical skills, the raising of hygiene standards, pioneered under Mao, has left its mark. The population problem is to some extent the product of falling infant mortality and longer life expectancy.

Now is China riven by the communal or religious conflicts which devour the energies of so many countries. Clan feuds persist in the most backward areas, and there is unrest among some of the ethnic minorities - especially the Muslims of Xinjiang - but the gradual progress towards universal literacy is an important heritage of the country's unique culture and written language.

The Government's credit is good with Western firms, and the leadership has succeeded in almost wiping out the budgetary and foreign trade deficits which resulted from over-spending in the late 1970s.

Although China is not a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, its prestige among other Third World countries is high. As the leaders point out, not a single Chinese soldier is stationed on the territory of any other country. The South-East Asian nations, while still wary of their big communist neighbour, regard it as a useful counterweight to the more aggressive and expansionist Vietnam.

Above all, China has gained respect - among those who sympathise with its goals - for its willingness to experiment and to discard unsuccessful formulas. In its development of a socialist state, China has tested the frontiers of Marxist

theory, and drawn back when its limitations were plain. The country is now at the opposite extreme, testing rightist socialism similar to that of Yugoslavia. If China remains a socialist country into the 21st century there is no doubt that its adaptation of Marxism will also reflect its long and unique cultural development.

ECONOMY

Reform is the priority for 1983

Reform has become the keynote of the Chinese economy in 1983.

Record harvests and a surplus on foreign trade last year plus a striking endorsement of recent agricultural reforms which gave farmers material incentives to produce more. This has strengthened the hand of the present leadership group, whose economic policies were expressed in the new Constitution and the long-delayed five-year plan (1981-1985) adopted by the National People's Congress last December.

With solid economic and political victories in their pocket, the Dengist group is preparing to launch a rectification movement in the second

half of this year to eliminate vestiges of "leftism" - that is, resistance to the new policies remaining in the party. This should help to extend economic reforms to industry and commerce, where they have come up against recalcitrant middle-level officials.

The private sector is expanding, especially in urban areas. There are 2.6 million individual enterprises in China employing 3,000,000 people with a gross annual turnover of more than 10,000m yuan (about £3,300m), officials say. State-owned and cooperative enterprises are converting to profit-based accounting.

None of these measures can succeed without thorough changes in the pricing and employment systems, but these are finally beginning to crack.

China is adopting a three-tier mixed economy with fixed prices for certain primary commodities and consumer staples, floating prices for a wide range of manufactured goods, including many consumer products, and free prices for farm and rural sideline industry products sold in markets.

This tripartite division parallels the division of the economy into three sectors: compulsory planned, guidance (or non-mandatory) planned, and free market, as described in the report by Mr Hu Yaobang, the Communist Party General Secretary, to the 12th party congress last September.

Equally important changes could finally remove the "iron-ribbow" system of guaranteed income and employment for urban workers, which has stymied attempts to improve worker productivity. In March the Ministry of Labour and Personnel called for the extension to all areas of the contract employment system, previously applied experimentally in selected enterprises in a few areas.

Under this system, the worker and employing organization enter into a contractual relationship, clearly spelling out the duties and rights of both parties.

The scheme allows for flexibility adjusted for productivity in a variety of ways. There is the implicit concept that a worker who fails to satisfy his contractual obligations can be dismissed - a revolutionary concept in a society which until recently accepted, in theory at least, that workers were entitled to their job and pay.

Heavy industry grew by a surprising 9.3 per cent last year, far exceeding the 4 per cent range set by planners in late 1981, and this will undoubtedly put further strain on China's already stretched energy supply and transport system.

Light industry grew by only 5.1 per cent, reversing the two-year trend of two figure light industrial growth under the readjustment policies, which had favoured light industry.

The policies cut investment costs and heavy industrial growth in order to hold down energy demand and expand the supply of consumer goods.

One factor in the levelling-off of light industrial growth has been the gradual saturation of markets for synthetic textiles and some manufactured goods, especially less-favoured brand names. Gone are the days when it was necessary to queue up to

foundation for more rapid economic growth in the second half of the decade.

Mr Zhao endorsed the open-door policy of expanding foreign trade and encouraging foreign investment in China. Foreign trade is expected to grow by an average of 8.7 per cent year over the five-year period. Last year it recorded a surplus of 2,800m yuan, but export growth was flat as China finally succumbed to stagnation in world trade and protectionism in the US and other key markets.

The plan anticipates a 3,000m yuan deficit for 1983, with imports growing 25 per cent. Much of the increase will come from technology and equipment needed for China's ambitious modernization programme.

Occidental Petroleum, of the US, announced in March that it had signed an interim agreement with the China National Coal Development Corporation to develop a 15 million tonne-per-year coalmine at Pinghuo in Shanxi province, the location of China's biggest coal reserves. The joint venture will require an investment by Occidental of between \$230m and \$300m (about £153m-£200m), which would make Pinghuo by far the biggest foreign investment in China.

About 70 per cent of the output is earmarked for export to Japan, the Philippines and Hong Kong. The coal will be moved from Shanxi along newly-upgraded railways to a coal port at Qinhuangdao.

In another important energy project, a nuclear power plant will be built in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone near Hong Kong. This will involve contracts for the nuclear power industries of both France and Britain, well-informed sources say, on the basis of future sales of electric power to Hong Kong.

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CHINA

continued from previous page
buy a watch, bicycle or sewing machine. Town dwellers now want colour, not black-and-white television sets, and Japanese if possible.

The shift to profit-based accounting has made it easier to identify inefficient producers of shoddy goods, which are now piling up in warehouses. Efficiency-minded bureaucrats are forcing such enterprises to shift to new product lines or close down.

Robert Delfs
China Economy Correspondent
Far Eastern Economic Review

AGRICULTURE

Growing more and reaping rewards

Recent structural changes in Chinese agriculture and the end of the drought after nearly three years in north China have contributed to record harvests, which the Chinese hope will be exceeded again this year.

Total agricultural output rose by nearly 7 per cent in 1982, which is the minimum necessary to achieve the leadership's goal of quadrupling national production by the year 2000.

In most places, work points

Though the area sown to grain was slightly reduced, the estimated harvest figure is 344 million tonnes, an increase of nearly 6 per cent over 1981.

Cotton totalled 3.37 million tonnes or nearly 14 per cent more than the previous year. Oil-bearing crops were put at 11.2 million tonnes, an increase of almost 10 per cent.

Though better weather helped farmers, Peking claims the record harvests were due at least partly to the new system of family farming which has motivated the peasants to produce and market more. Leading authorities compare the system with the agricultural cooperatives of the 1950s, which were swept aside by the late Mao Tse-tung's imposition of the people's communes.

The communes, which centralized all rural work from 1958 on and were aimed at achieving uniformity of living standards, were severely modified after they failed to keep the country fed in 1961.

However, some concepts of egalitarianism persisted in the three-tiered administrative system applied to farming from 1962 until 1980, and the slogan nowadays is "paying each according to his output".

The idea of peasant self-enrichment is no longer thought anti-socialist, but is greatly encouraged, so that there are now peasant families earning considerably more than industrial workers and people in administrative jobs, and a few have even bought their own tractors, which they can use on their own land or hire out for gain.

Chinese farming - for which only 15 per cent of the country's land is suitable - now concentrates on value rather than mass output. Forest and aquatic products, handicrafts, meat and eggs are no longer regarded as luxuries whose cultivation should be assigned a low priority. But the proclaimed goal of improving the protein content of the people's diet will wait on the development of transport and refrigeration to ship beef and lamb from the frontier grasslands to the heavily populated interior. Pork, chicken, beans and fish still supply most of the protein in the Chinese diet.

In practice it makes little difference, except that exploitation of poor by rich peasants is ruled out, thus avoiding one of the greatest causes of misery in pre-revolutionary China. The factors working for greater output are purchases of chemical fertiliser, hard work, a modest degree of mechanization, bank loans, and progress in scientific farming.

Agriculture will generally continue to be small scale until the enhanced earnings of the country as a whole can finance the merging of the land tracts now farmed by families groups of families and sometimes individuals, thus making mechanization economic and avoiding rural unemployment.

The latest trend is towards families specializing in certain types of work considered inferior to grain production during Mao's lifetime - forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries, fruit, vegetables, and cash crops. The party and government are actively encouraging peasant families to devote themselves to any one or a combination of such occupations.

The wheel of rural policy has come round so far that now there are even families considered to be "specializing in grain production". Previously, families were expected to spend most of their time and energy making their villages self-sufficient in grain, and ideally selling surpluses to the state. Now the peasants can eat or market their crops freely after delivering their contracted grain

quotas or other produce to the authorities.

The communes themselves have ceased to be centres of political mobilization and control, and are now purely administrative units providing some essential services. The rural township or *xian* has reverted to its former role as the basic organ of government.

Nothing could better symbolize the turn-about in farm policy than the appointment of a middle-aged intellectual to act as party secretary of the once-famous Dazhai production brigade in Shanxi Province, the model of Maoist austerity and egalitarianism. Mao and his group despised intellectuals and compared them unfavourably with untutored peasants as builders of socialism. Now it is the peasants who have shown the strongest anti-socialist tendencies, and won their point.

Chinese theorists, of course, would reject this analysis, and say the peasants were as eager as anyone to implement socialism when the time is ripe. But the socialist idea of "paying each according to his work" has failed to make Chinese farming efficient, and the slogan nowadays is "paying each according to his output".

The outcome of the negotiations - and the drilling that follows them - will be critical for both sides. For the Chinese, development of their offshore oil is far more than just another manifestation of Deng Xiaoping's "open door" economic policy. It holds out the prospect of secure energy supplies for many years, as well as a vital source of badly needed foreign currency.

Oil companies regard offshore China as one of the last great unexplored provinces. The seismic surveys they carried out for the Chinese Government as a condition of being able to bid in last summer's auction identified more than 100 large and potentially oil-bearing structures, many of which could produce substantial quantities of oil if they are confirmed by drilling. The 33 companies which bid for licences include all the leading international companies such as BP, Shell and Exxon.

China has been a significant producer of oil for more than 30 years, having been helped by the Russians to develop the first of her many onshore fields. Present production from the onshore fields is running at about 2 million barrels a day, slightly less than Britain's North Sea output, but sufficient in recent years to meet China's domestic needs and leave a small surplus for export.

Although no official Chinese forecasts are available, there has been speculation among Western analysts that China's onshore fields have recently peaked, underlining the need for new developments. A recent confidential World Bank report forecast that China could become a net importer of oil by 1990, particularly if domestic consumption continued to grow.

What is not in dispute is that China does not have the experience, equipment or financial resources to tackle the far more demanding task of offshore development on its own. This is reflected both in its decision to open the door to Western oil companies, and in its stipulation that the companies should help to lay the groundwork for a strengthened indigenous industry by employing and training Chinese labour for their offshore operations.

As for the financial commitment, Chang Yangming, vice-chairman of the board of directors of the Bank of China, said a few months ago that China would need between \$20,000m and \$40,000m (£13,000m to £26,000m) to develop its oil and coal resources. Most Western estimates are that sums of this order will be needed over the next 20 years for oil development alone if the offshore area proves anything like as rewarding as has been predicted.

Estimates of the likely reserves in China's offshore waters are inevitably speculative, but Dr Jack Barks, a former managing director of BP, puts the likely figure at between 20 billion and 40 billion barrels. This is in line with many other estimates, and would make offshore China slightly more productive than the North Sea.

The drilling already done by three oil company consortia - one Japanese, one French and one American, has been patchy, with several oil shows, and a number of "dry holes". These have all been in relatively shallow water, but are not regarded as the best areas on offer.

The waters off the mouth of the Pearl River will attract the greatest industrial interest, and this area was well represented in last summer's auctioned acreage. The total area on offer amounted to some 60,000 square miles, equivalent to the entire United Kingdom sector of the North Sea.

The Chinese have taken advice from other oil producing countries, including Norway, about the form and terms of licence agreements. The model agreement produced last year was complex and onerous but not that exacting by international standards, with profits in the early stages being divided 75 per cent to the Chinese Government and 25 per cent to the oil companies.

Two key conditions for China are that all the initial exploration and development costs are paid for by the companies, with the Chinese state oil company taking over once the costs have been repaid out of the oil produced. This is in addition to the stipulations that the companies use Chinese labour and equipment wherever possible.

next 20 years for oil development alone if the offshore area proves anything like as rewarding as has been predicted.

Based on the latest demographic data, up to 13 million marriages annually can be anticipated for each of the remaining years of this decade. Nearly 65 per cent of the population is under 30, and an enormous number of couples is now coming into the marrying age and could produce a child within the first year of marriage.

It is little wonder that the slogans "delay marriage", "delay pregnancy", and "delay for ever having a second child" are seen and heard throughout China today.

There is potential for another enormous baby boom during this decade and well into the 1990s unless a large proportion of young childbearing women can be persuaded, bribed or even coerced into having only one child.

China is expected to increase its population by an additional 15 million in 1983, and in each of the immediate years thereafter. Yet planners suggest that for the next 17 years the annual population increase will have to be kept in the vicinity of 10 to 11 million or lower to achieve their target of a population of 1,200 million by the year 2000. These aims are considered over-optimistic by many statistical demographers and family sociologists.

To date some 16 million couples throughout China have pledged to have only one child, and some 100 million couples of child bearing age are reported to be active contraceptive users. However, Chinese family planning officials, as well as demographers, believe that it would be necessary for at least 50 million young childbearing couples to pledge to have only one child, and for 200 million couples to use contraceptives if the Government is to achieve its goals for the year 2000.

Short-term goals have been proclaimed to reduce the present 1.4 per cent annual growth to about 1.2 per cent by 1985 and to less than one per cent by 1990.

Unfortunately there are now emerging several unexpected consequences of the birth control programmes which have been in operation during the last few years. One is the increase in infanticide, especially female babies.

In November last year the influential and widely read *China Youth Daily* published an article called "Save the baby girls". In addition to warning parents against such unlawful acts, it noted that "according to statistics a serious imbalance characterised by the ratio of 3.2 between male and female babies that have been born and have survived in the past two years has occurred in some communities".

China is one of the few countries to have highlighted and promoted birth control so explicitly in a national Constitution. This comes as no surprise in view of the results, just being released, of China's most recent census, which was conducted in June 1982.

The figures showed a nation of over 1,008 million people on the mainland of China which could conceivably grow to 1,400 million by the end of the century if peasant families continue to prefer to have three children.

Since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949 more than 450 million people have been added to China's population and 40 per cent of this net gain occurred during the baby boom from 1962 to 1972. The results of this boom should be carefully considered in conjunction with the working of the

newspaper went on to note that "if this phenomenon is not checked immediately, there will be a serious social problem in twenty years' time when a large number of young men will be without spouses".

In his 1981-85 five-year plan speech to the National People's Congress last November, Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, warned rural peasants especially to "change radically the feudal attitude of viewing sons as better than daughters and regarding more sons as a sign of good fortune". He encouraged the protection of "infant girls and their mothers", and called on Chinese society to "resolutely condemn the criminal activities of female infanticide and maltreatment of the mothers".

Before the one child family

continued on next page

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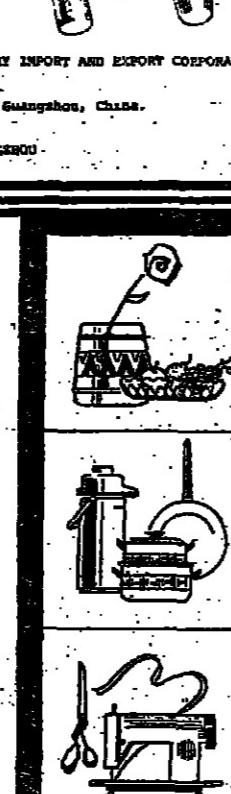
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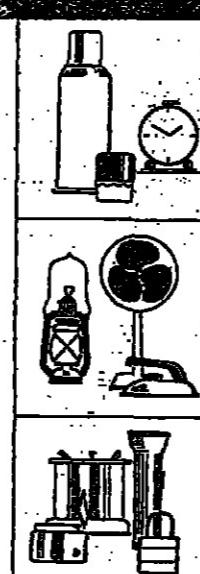
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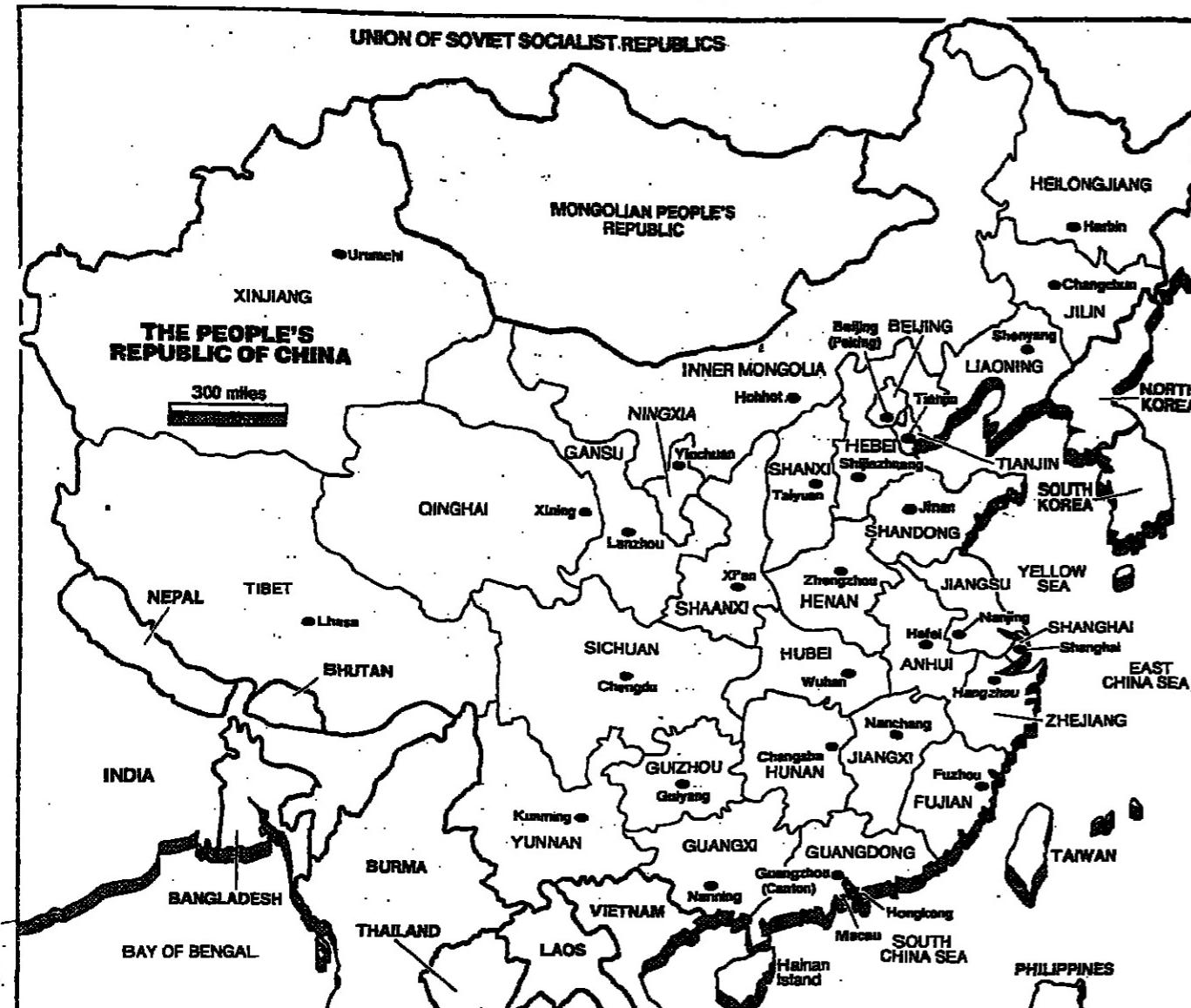
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Chayji 155



Continued from previous page
campaign, peasants could grudgingly absorb extra daughters; now they have little choice and most make up their minds to either kill a female baby or to let it live and try again for a boy. They would then of course incur the displeasure of village cadres and local party leaders who have to monitor the birth quotas and answer to their superiors as to the success of their efforts.

An additional factor, which does not augur well for the future educational or cultural levels of the rural population, relates indirectly to the recently initiated personal responsibility system (PRS), the euphemistic label for private production by peasants. This encourages the use of children's labour and could detract from the value of full school attendance, particularly in the case of girls.

In addition, some peasants are apparently prepared to forego the uncertain package of financial incentives associated with the one child family bonus scheme.

To counteract these tendencies some provinces have encouraged local units to make a "birth control responsibility system". Failure to utilize contraceptives or take "remedial measures" (abortions) results in a fine and cancellation of an agricultural contract and even withdrawal of private agricultural plots.

With an 80 per cent rural population, China needs positive rather than punitive, government intervention on a large scale if the agricultural responsibility system is to be encouraged and a considerable reduction in family size is to be achieved. It is estimated that most rural families have and still want at least three children, and nearly 20 per cent of all rural births last year were third children or higher.

Until recently the absence in China of a corps of demographers able to investigate and

experiment in research design, survey and evaluation, precluded sound and accurate demographic advice.

Accordingly, the most important of the 1982 census results would perhaps be the discrete abandonment of the ethereal target of under 1,200 million for the year 2000, and the development of sounder, safer and more sensitive socio-demographic policies. It is certainly necessary to lower national population targets if they have been unsoundly overinflated in the first place. But a change in goals, facilitating a population for the year 2000 of 1,250 or 1,300 million, would relieve the enormous pressures on Chinese families during the remaining years of this decade.

Stewart Fraser
Professor of Education
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RELIGION

The right to worship in an atheist state

The traditional view that a Chinese was "Confucian in office, Taoist in retirement and Buddhist as death approached", once summarised the guiltless practicality and eclecticism characteristic of the Chinese attitude to religion.

The contemporary state is officially atheist but its citizens are constitutionally free to believe in Buddhism, Taoism, Islam or Christianity as long as these constitute neither a threat to national security nor to health. The attitude of the state to religion has been ambivalent, ranging from tolerance to the destructiveness of the Red

guards in the Cultural Revolution.

Officially, religion is combated with science in the assumption that it will slowly wither in the face of implacable logic.

The usefulness of religious monuments in China's lucrative tourist trade means, however, that the atheist state pays for the upkeep and repair of major temples, churches and mosques. The price that monks, nuns, pastors and imams have to pay is that of large groups of foreign and Chinese tourists among the faithful.

Each major religion has a governing association which, in the words of Zhao Puchu, President of the Buddhist Association, "acts as a bridge between the Government

and the people". The leader of China's Protestants, Bishop Ting, who visited Britain last year is, like Zhao Puchu, a skilled diplomat, constantly compelled to juggle Marxism and Christianity and balance conflicting interests.

The Constitution forbids "foreign control" of religion, so relations with believers in the outside world are one of the most delicate issues. Some think that it was outside support that kept Islam, Christianity and Buddhism going during the Cultural Revolution. Certainly the only religion with no substantial outside contacts, Taoism, appears to be in serious decline.

Numbers of adherents are difficult to discover since the estimates of the Chinese Religious Affairs Bureau are very low, and those of outside religious bodies often excessively high. There are anywhere between 10 and 20 million Muslims and more than three million Protestants (which is three times the number in 1949). There are probably between three and six million Catholics. The number of Buddhists is even harder to

estimate.

The outside world and the danger of foreign interference have played a major part in the life of the Christian Church in China. After 1949 the Protestants quickly set up the "three-self patriotic movement" of Protestant Churches of China, stressing allegiance to the new Chinese government. Tied by the implacable rule of loyalty to the Vatican, China's Catholics demurred. They were not helped by the Vatican policy of recognizing refugee cardinals in Taiwan and the upgrading of its representative there to full nun-cature status. Though a Catholic Patriotic Association was set up, some refused to recognize it. In 1981, about 20 Catholics, including some Jesuits, were arrested in Shanghai for presumed loyalty to Rome.

Though the Protestants have suffered less because of their relations with the outside world, they face some internal problems. A man called Witness Li (or Nee) formed a group called The Little Flock and then left for America. Staunch members of the Flock, one of whom kept a tame sheep in her Peking courtyard until anti-pet campaigns of the 1950s led to its slaughter, are placed in a difficult position by the betrayal and absentmindedness of their leader.

There is also a rather embarrassing heretical sect called The Yellers. Acting on an unusual interpretation of a verse in St John's Gospel, they shout, "Thank you, Jesus Christ. We are greater than you and you are smaller than we". They are an embarrassment to the Protestant authorities.

The future of religion in China is not easy to predict. The slow decline of Taoism suggests that, without outside help, the future of religion is uncertain. Continuing problems with Catholics loyal to the Vatican suggest that outside support is also very provocative to the Chinese authorities.

Even during the Cultural Revolution, people managed to maintain their faith with discretion. The great grandmother of a friend of mine was a devout Buddhist with no images to worship so she decided that a corner of the window sill was her altar and she prayed to that. Unostentatious practicality of that sort is probably the best method for the survival of religion in China. Excessive zeal would be both dangerous and out of keeping with tradition.

Frances Wood

The author, who is research assistant in the Chinese section of the British Library, has climbed three of the Holy Mountains in China.



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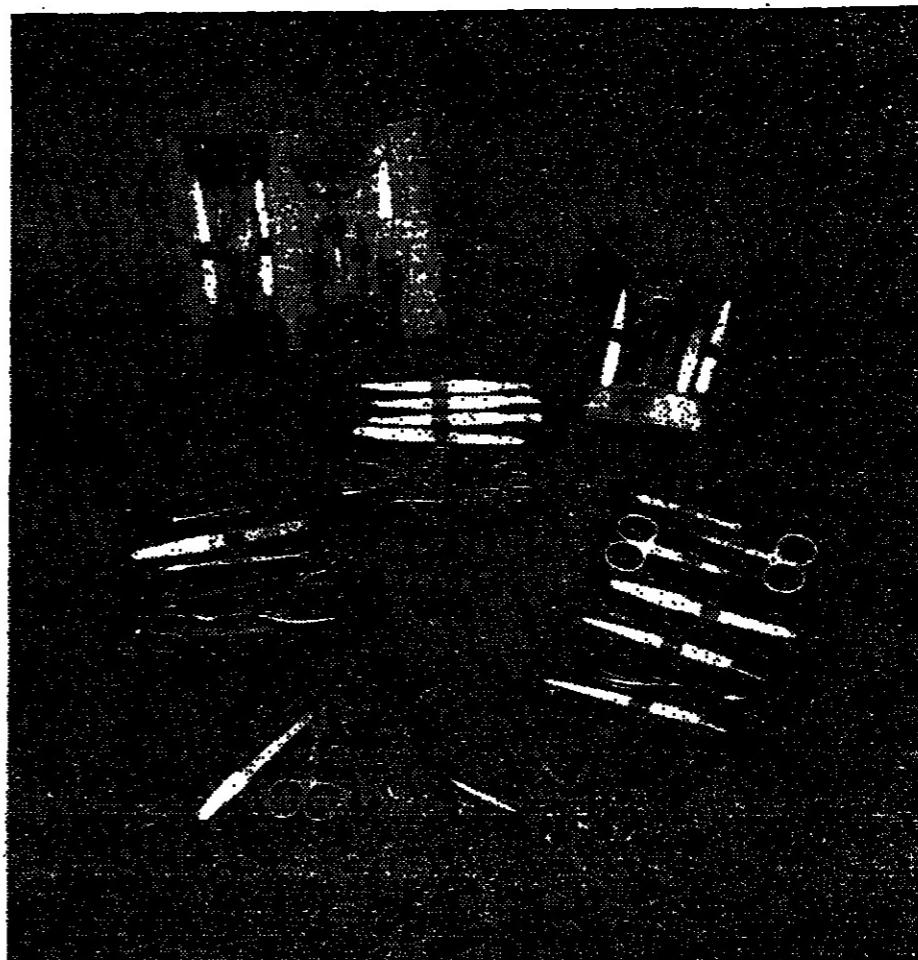
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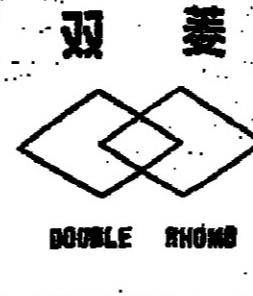


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China is the third largest country in the world after the Soviet Union and Canada.

The articles below give the flavour of widely differing parts of this huge land area.

SICHUAN

At home in Heaven's Country

Nowhere else are 100 million people so cut off from international life as in the province of Sichuan. It is probably only as the home of pandas and of a spicy cuisine that it impinges on the consciousness of the non-Chinese world. Even within China the province is isolated in the far southwest, hemmed in by mountain ranges, while the Yangtze, long hampered communication with the more developed east of the country.

Sichuan's history has been turbulent. "When all the earth is peaceful, Sichuan is the last to be at peace. When all the earth is in disorder, Sichuan is the first to be disordered." Such is its repute.

The province is happier in its natural endowments. "Heaven's Country" is its appellation, from the fertility of the soil of the Sichuan Basin, where climate and the works of man (the 2,000-year-old Dujiangyan Irrigation System, fanning out from Guizhou) combine to ensure the province against drought, yielding a splendid lushness of vegetation. Bright green rice fields under a grey, rain-filled sky provide the characteristic backdrop of the Sichuan countryside. Chengdu, the provincial capital, set in the Sichuan Basin, is reputed to enjoy less direct sunshine a year than London.

Most of the province's population (99,700,000 according to the census of July 1982) live in the Sichuan Basin, also known as the Red Basin from the red and purple colouring of its soil. The well-watered Chengdu Plain is the most fertile and thickly peopled area of this basin, but even in the hilly parts, crops are grown on carefully built terraces.

Rice, wheat, rapeseed, sugar, tobacco, peanuts and cotton are the major crops on the plains. Maize and sweet potatoes are cultivated in both lowlands and hills areas. The province is self-sufficient in grain but no longer exports it to other parts of China. Sichuan's citrus fruits are famous, and tea and silk production are being expanded. Tung oil trees flourish in the hills of east Sichuan.

Pigs and poultry, with buffaloes, are the chief livestock of the plains, with goats being reared in the hills. Sichuan's pig bristles enjoy an international reputation.

More attention is being devoted to the long neglected highlands of west Sichuan, bordering Tibet. Here, cattle raising and arable crops offer good prospects and the region is expected to make a greater contribution to the province's economy. This sparsely populated area is inhabited by non-Chinese tribes. They are gradually being "sinicized" as the Han Chinese settle the valleys.

Reafforestation, both on the western plateaux and on the hills of the Sichuan Basin, is an urgent priority. Indiscriminate felling of trees was a major factor in the disastrous floods on the Chengdu Plain in 1981.

Chengdu is the cultural and political capital of Sichuan. Chongqing, however, is the large city with six million inhabitants as against less than four million in Chengdu (in both cases the figures include the rural population of the two municipalities). Chiang Kai-shek established his wartime capital in Chongqing and Sichuan formed the base for resistance to the Japanese invaders.

In the last 30 years both Chengdu and Chongqing have been developed as important industrial centres. Textiles, machinery and chemical fertilizers are among the province's major industries while Chongqing and the new city of Dukou in south Sichuan have large steel works. An ambitious scheme for a vast hydroelectric project in the Yangtze gorges is still in the planning stage.

The utilization of Sichuan's abundant resources of natural gas has been the province's most dramatic mineral development in recent years. Mining of coal and iron ore is also significant and Sichuan has the mineral resources to underpin great industrial growth.

The Chengdu-Chongqing line is the backbone of the provincial railway system while other lines now link Sichuan to northwest China (and then eastward to Peking) and also southwards to Yunnan and Guizhou. Main roads have been improved and extended and the Yangtze rapids have been rendered safer by the demolition of rocky outcrops.

Despite industrial and mining development agriculture is still the mainstay of Sichuan's economy. For 20 years the province's agricultural surplus

was expropriated at low prices, with little being given in return.

In the Cultural Revolution fierce fighting took place in some Sichuan cities. By 1975 the province was in desperate straits and in that year Deng Xiaoping visited his native province to apologize for the way it had been treated.

Zhao Ziyang, as Party First Secretary of the province, then tried to revive its economy by, among other things, trying new methods of industrial management which gave more initiative and incentive to individual enterprise. Attention was focused on Sichuan to see the effect of these experiments, which now, however, appear to have stalled.

The new agricultural "responsibility systems" (effectively, a return to family farming) seem, on the contrary, to be going ahead strongly. Sichuan was a pioneer in the abolition of rural communes and in substituting new structures which separate administrative and economic functions in the country.

The province has begun direct export trade to foreign countries, and several restaurants controlled by the provincial catering bureau have been opened abroad. In an age when mini-states dot the globe with their diplomas, this great province is represented in the outside world, not by embassies, but by restaurants.

Andrey Domithorne
Professional Fellow, Australian National University, Canberra.

GUANGDONG

Peasants flourish on rich delta land

Guangdong, China's most southerly province, covers 220,000 sq km, only a little less than the United Kingdom. Its population of 59,300,000 (64,700,000 including Hong Kong and Macau) is exceeded only by Sichuan, Shandong and Henan.

The province is one of China's great agricultural regions. It is a double-cropping rice area and its economic crops, especially sugar, peanuts, fish, fruit, vegetables and silk-cocoons, are of great significance.

There has been a great deal of investment in infrastructure

since 1980, the effects of which extend beyond the zone. The most noticeable is the construction of a highway linking Shenzhen (and effectively Hongkong) with Guangzhou (Canton), and efforts to improve road conditions between Macau and the provincial capital.

The SEZs are not strictly export-processing zones. A variety of different arrangements are possible: direct investment, joint ventures, cooperative enterprises, compensation trade. The generally depressed economic conditions in 1982 and especially the slump in the Hongkong property market have acted as limits to growth.

The elaboration of rural development policies has brought significant changes in the Chinese countryside, especially in the more modern areas. Guangdong's foreign exchange earnings exceeded \$2,000m (about £1,315m) in 1982.

Peasant incomes have increased dramatically. Foshan prefecture, at the core of the delta, had almost 10,000 households with annual incomes over 10,000 yuan (£3,000) in 1982.

Shunde county, notable for fish, sugar and silk production, had a per capita rural income of 700 yuan (£230), which is almost four times national average (and five times its 1976 figure).

Rural economic success has not been limited to the agricultural sector. Rural enterprises at the commune and brigade levels have taken advantage of relaxed economic policies to establish links with enterprises in Hong Kong and Macau. As the price of labour in Hongkong and Macau increases, and as both territories shift to more sophisticated production lines, the processing of finished goods, especially plastics and certain textiles, has moved north to the communes of the delta region. The countryside in the delta region is thus extremely prosperous and many peasants enjoy new housing and an array of material goods superior to those even in urban China.

A significant degree of economic autonomy has been granted to the province since 1979. Its most dramatic consequence has been the creation of special economic zones (SEZs) in Shenzhen, close to Hong Kong, Zhuhai, next to Macau, and Shantou. Developments in Shenzhen and Zhuhai have been rapid. Shantou, like its counterpart in nearby Xiamen (Amoy) in Fujian province, is less favourably located and development has been slower.

The SEZs are administered directly by the provincial government and both Shenzhen and Zhuhai have been granted municipal status. The border at both points has been effectively pushed back and Chinese citizens are given entry to the zones only with special permits.

There has been a great deal of investment in infrastructure

tourism, and archaeological studies. Despite tension between the local Muslim population and the immigrant Han (ethnic Chinese), communications and living standards are being gradually improved.

Xinjiang includes within its 636,000 square miles the delectable oasis city of Turfan, known for its grapes and melons, and the desolate salt flats of Lake Aidi in the middle of the depression, the lowest point in China.

New hotels are being built to replace the primitive guest houses erected by the Russians, who used to be influential in the region. Air-conditioning will slowly replace the deep cellars where people seek refuge from the scorching dry heat of summer.

Since ancient times, people of many races and religions have striven to make the desert habitable. Water draining of the Flaming Mountains (named for their appearance) is brought by deep man-made conduits to irrigate the vines of Turfan and support man and animals from wells in the desert.

The Gobi extends from western Mongolia into northern Xinjiang, a stony wilderness where nothing grows. But the Tianshan or "Heavenly Mountains" separate the desert from the fertile plain around Urumchi, the region's capital, and have tall trees and a cool, tranquil lake at 6,000ft above sea level.

Tent-dwelling Kazakhs tend their livestock in the foothills while the more settled Uighurs – also of Turkic stock – plough fields and harvest wheat for the delicious unleavened loaves eaten by Central Asian Muslins.

Local officials decline to discuss the race riots which have claimed casualties at the remote outpost of Kashgar, in the far West, once a centre of Russian influence. Though the Muslims and Han appear to maintain reasonably cordial relations in Urumchi, the Cultural Revolution caused great damage by its extreme-left hostility towards religion and traditional dress and customs.

Not did Mao and his followers help by exiling more than a million youths from the Shanghai area to "tentper themselves and make revolution" in the unconscionable surroundings of Xinjiang. The Chinese of the Yangtze Delta do not like mutton, milk or cheese – staple foods in Xinjiang – and were eminently unsuited to conditions there. Many of them have now returned home, though some have settled down in Central Asia.

The local culture is now smiled on by the Chinese authorities, and the Arabic script has been revived for the writing of the Uighur and other Turkic languages, replacing the modified Roman alphabet which was used to replace the

Russian-style Cyrillic script in the 1950s.

Local imams are trained to read the Koran in Arabic, and a few have been able to make the pilgrimage to Mecca. Mosques again collect rents from property they own in the cities, to finance restoration and the training of young imams. The Muslims of Xinjiang are Sunnis, with the exception of the Iranian Tadzhiks in the south, who are Shiites and have given the authorities a lot of trouble, according to sources in Urumchi.

Farms in the north-east are vast and dwellings far apart, a sharp contrast to the tiny fields and villages pitched only a stone's throw from each other which are typical of most of northern China. The larger fields and much smaller population density make mechanization a practical alternative and the region leads in the number of tractors.

After displacing Russia, which built the first railroads in Manchuria and developed Port Arthur, now known as Lüda-Dalian, Japan, recognizing the economic potential of Manchuria, initiated industrial development of the region. The Japanese took over southern Manchuria in 1895 and dominated all of north-east from the 1920s until the end of the last war.

Soviet aid to China in the early 1950s concentrated on the north-east; much of the region's industrial plant is of Soviet origin and dates from this period. The build-up was accelerated during the Korean War, when the north-east was a staging area for Chinese troops.

Investment in the region, and consequently industrial growth rates, declined during the 1960s with the cessation of Soviet economic aid and as Peking sought to distribute industrial capacity to other regions. As tensions across the Ussuri River heightened, Chinese planners feared that industrial bases in Manchuria could be vulnerable to Soviet attack. The north-east is strategically difficult to defend in that rail and road links southwards to north China are concentrated in a narrow strip between the Gulf of Bohai and the Nulu'erhu Mountains of Inner Mongolia.

More recently, investment in the north-east suffered in the wake of the readjustment policies of 1980-81, which cut back heavy industrial investment in favour of less energy-intensive light industry. Higher growth rates should return this year with the further expansion of heavy industrial growth. The region should also benefit from the programme to technologically upgrade equipment in existing factories as an alternative to building more complete plants since it has a higher proportion of older factories dating from the period of Soviet assistance in the 1950s.

Russian influence is still apparent in the architecture and cuisine of Harbin, the capital of Heilongjiang, though the once 100,000-strong White Russian community has been reduced to only a few dozen elderly survivors.

For the time being, the Japanese are the dominant foreign presence in the region, however. Representatives of Japanese trading companies and other firms are ubiquitous.

Most foreign firms active in the area are engaged in trade or construction. Japanese firms are building a 300,000 tonne-per-year capacity ethylene plant at the Daqing oilfield and Fluor, a US engineering and construction company, was recently awarded a US\$50m contract for expansion and modernization of the Fushun coal mine.

Robert Delfs

NORTH-EAST

Industrial heartland near Soviet border

The three northernmost provinces of China, Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang – the area once called Manchuria but now known simply as the North-east – comprise what is arguably the most economically dynamic region of China.

The local culture is now smiled on by the Chinese authorities, and the Arabic script has been revived for the writing of the Uighur and other Turkic languages, replacing the modified Roman alphabet which was used to replace the

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THE ARTS

The Royal Ballet opens in New York Classicism brilliantly debauching itself

Varii capricci
Metropolitan Opera House

The Royal Ballet appear to have invested Frederick Ashton as their laureate: his penultimate ballet, *Rhapsody*, celebrated the Queen Mother's eightieth birthday, and *Varii capricci*, his latest single-act work, is also a *pétite d'occasion*, made to launch the company's one-week season in the Britain Salutes New York festival.

Ashton plays up to the event by providing what is in effect a paean to the Sixties. Britain's belle époque. *Varii capricci* stars Antoinette Sibley and Anthony Dowell, whose partnership (soldered by Ashton when he brought them together in *The Dream* in 1964) is integral to this decade, as indeed are the names David Hockney, who designed the set, and Ossie Clark, who did the costumes for the ballet. The Sixties have special relevance for Ashton too: five of his finest and most enduring ballets were created then (*La Fille mal gardée*, *The Two Pigeons*, *The Dream*, *Monotones* and *Enigma Variations*). But anyone expecting sentiment or nostalgia will be as surprised as the New Yorkers were on the first night: Ashton roughly subverts the Americans' idea of the Royal Ballet – all refinement, reticence and style, epitomized in *Enigma Variations*, which

opened the programme – and shows English classicism debauching itself.

Wearing a spiv's satin suit and hair slicked into dyed black quiff, Dowell is Lo Straniere, a strutting young gigolo who meets and dallies with the mistress of an Italian villa (Sibley) at an early evening pool-side party. Warming to the audience's raucous delight at seeing a great artist slumming, Dowell embellished the John Travolta touches Ashton has given him: the "chassing" walk, self-preening and a pose borrowed from Nijinsky's Faun in which Dowell freezes sideways-on with fingers clenched and thumbs raised. Ashton has intuitively hit upon the mood of the moment in New York, where the hottest ticket in town are *For Your Eyes*, in which another classical star, Natalia Makarova, lets rip in a high-kicking stripper routine.

Although in *Varii Capricci* we see a stagy side of Ashton that parodies the gentle humour we associate with him, the vulgarity is still in good taste. One, way he achieves this is by using Sibley as a barometer of conventional classicism: her costume is Juliet or Ondine-style white chiffon, and her movements and duets with Dowell are designed to draw attention to her pure, stately Royal Ballet line. Sibley is right back on form, and although both she and Dowell had some difficulty covering the baseball-field of a stage,

seeing them perform together was to see time confounded.

Ashton has recruited eight of the Royal Ballet's bright young things as *Varii amici*. They are there to flank Sibley and Dowell, though characteristically his choreography individualizes them – especially the boys: The finale provides each with a chance to flaunt the steps he is best at: split-jetés and penchées from Philip Brookhead and Mark Freeman, scissoring jumps by Douglas Howes, fast skating spirals by Stephen Sherill. Like birds, the boys are decked more flamboyantly than the girls. Ossie Clark bears their shoulders with chiffon festoons in sugar colours. The girls (Genesia Rosato, Karen Paisley, Gail Taphouse and Ravenna Tucker) match the boys colour-wise but are used more as a quartet. Several of their movements echo *Les Biches*, like the hand-on-hip épanouissement and indolent shoulder-laugh.

The costumes for *Varii capricci* are periodless and oddly incongruous with the set. Hockney has combined the smouldering sky and the conifers from *L'Enfant et les sortiléges* with the primitivistic palm tree from *Les Mamelles de Tiresias*, and of course included his hallmark – the swimming-pool with abstractions of sunlit water. Clark's lingerie frocks seem camp and ineffectual against the strident *Parade* colours.

Hockney's set, loosely modelled on William Walton's garden in Ischia, was intended as a *jeu d'esprit* to amuse the composer, Ashton says, because it was he who initiated the ballet. "The Waltons were very proud of their garden, that's why it's a joke. But then William went and died on me so it can't be a joke any more." Walton originally composed *Varii capricci* in 1972 for solo guitar and had often asked Ashton to use it for a ballet. Ashton finally "tackled it out of friendship for William". The coda to the work, which he asked Walton to add, arrived from Italy the day the composer died.

Ashton's choreography faithfully illustrates the various moods of the score: the cool, *Gymnopédie*-inspired section used for a sinuous Sibley/Dowell *pas de deux*, the syrupy passages and the razzmatazz finale. Ashton also responds choreographically to nuances in the title: the word "capriccio" at once sums up the fleeting central relationship and (in its sense as a musical term) the brevity and impulsive style of the piece, as well as describing its impact – that of a lively fancy, a whim. It shows a new flippancy in Ashton which the Americans loved.

Julie Kavanagh

• The author is Arts Editor of *Harpers and Queen*.



The Travolta touch: Anthony Dowell with Antoinette Sibley

Cinema

Bergman's celebration of life's joy and terror

Fanny and Alexander (15)
Lumière

The Wicked Lady (18)
Leicester Square Theatre

10 to Midnight (18)
Classic Haymarket

A Swarm in May
ICA Children's Cinema

From the opening shot of young Alexander peering through the stage of a toy theatre, Ingmar Bergman's *Fanny and Alexander* promises extraordinary cinematic magic. The promise is duly kept. Few recent films have rendered the act of sitting before a silver screen so pleasurable; few recent films have radiated such full-blooded human warmth. The story of the well-to-do Ekdahl family in a Swedish cathedral town early in the century takes a little over three hours, yet Bergman never lets us wriggle or peer at our watches; we become so drawn into the director's imaginative world that we never want to let the film go. (Another version



First view of Bertil Gove as Alexander

But it would be unwise to dig for detailed parallels in a film so charged with mystery. The basic story appears simple enough: two children are prised away from their congenial, cluttered home when their widowed mother marries the local bishop; friends and family return them to warmth and safety. The complexities and magic derive instead from Bergman's fecund decorations, the brilliant kaleidoscope of moods. Early scenes resound with communal jollity: a flatulent uncle plays games with a candle, a bed collapses through too much bawdiness. Halfway through, the kaleidoscope darkens. The children are pitchforked into the spare white walls and forbidding faces of the

bishop's house, shot by Nykvist with striking clarity. Later, the tone changes again as Fanny and Alexander are conveyed to the antique shop of a Jewish family friend, stacked with peculiarities – a puppet god, a breathing mummy, an epicene exterior kept behind locked doors.

Some of the film's peculiarities are clearly heightened by the elimination of two hours' footage. After their establishing scenes, various Ekdahls fade away; transitions between sequences are cut to the bone. Yet nothing hampers the awesome command of camera movement, colour, decor and editing, or the adroitness of every performance (from Jan Malinjo's chilling religious martyr to the beautiful warmth of Pernilla Wallgren's limping mermaid). This is cinema at its most magnificent, and a perfect illustration of the film's closing quotation from Strindberg's *Dream Play*: "Anything can happen, anything is possible

and likely. Time and space do not exist. On a flimsy ground of reality, imagination spins out and weaves new patterns."

Rather less spinning and weaving take place in Michael Winner's remake of the old Gainsborough saga of seven-century naughtiness. *The Wicked Lady*, though the screen hums with other activities, Maypoles are twirled, breasts are bared; Faye Dunaway whips a rival in vicious slow motion; rogues and doxies over-carouse at the Leaping Stag inn; an absurd Sir John Gielgud expires crying for "Sir Ralph" (Richardson) – no, it is one of the characters). I could continue for paragraphs, but the film is such a sitting duck that it seems pointless to list pot-shots. The 1945 version – directed by Leslie Arliss, a slender talent – was nothing more than a famous concoction built to satisfy the public's wartime fancy for licentious period behaviour. Michael Winner, clearly, was the ideal person to

Television

Intelligent and convincing case

That recent television soap opera *World War III* seems to have provoked more anxiety than John Pilger's anti-nuclear diatribe to which last night's *The War About Peace* (Central) was the riposte. Is Ronald Reagan really as bad an actor as Rock Hudson? Will a woman head the CIA? Will obscure events in Alaska destroy civilization as we know it?

Our fears were at least momentarily stilled by Max Hastings, who made the not unimportant point that our perceptions of nuclear war have in large measure been formed by film and television spectacles of that kind. And this part of a larger point, that most people's attitudes towards the possibility of nuclear conflict are a compound of hearsay and fantasy, received opinion and

wishful thinking. No wonder it has become a favourite with novelists.

Mr Hastings's own film, although clearly designed to "balance" Mr Pilger's, did not suffer from an excess of zealotry or wishful thinking; it was so thorough that it became almost boring. He criticized the politicians just as sternly as he did the unilateralists and there were many of "talking heads" with names like Beefburger or Dynorod to give us the facts. One could have done without Mr Heseltine or Vice-President Bush, of course, who inspire an utter lack of confidence, but the contributions of John Ericson and Michael Howard seemed relatively sane and judicious.

There has been in recent years a proliferation of documentaries concerned with the possibility of nuclear conflict, and this programme will change anyone's mind. Those with a pessimistic and lop-sided view of human behaviour will still consider nuclear weapons as an inhibiting force – working against man's natural aggression. Those of a more Panglossian temperament will tend to be unilateralists, in the hope or expectation of a benevolent reaction from "the other side". No amount of argument will affect what in many cases it seems, barely conscious attitudes. Nevertheless, Mr Hastings made his case in an intelligent and, for me, convincing manner – but, then, I was convinced already.

Peter Ackroyd

ANDRZEJ WAJDA
The Young Ladies of Wilko
"A lovely and affecting film"
"Wistful, elegiac, seductive"
"The work of a master"
"Fine performances, memorable and majestic filmmaking"
"Exquisitely staged and acted...more haunting than anything in SOPHIE'S CHOICE"
"Elegant, elegiac...This wise, visually ravishing film...deserves to be seen"
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"MAO TO MOZART"
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make a contemporary equivalent. He has done so, moreover, with much of the original dialogue, which pours out of the hapless cast spiced with the odd four-lettered addition. If the exercise was undertaken with tongue in cheek, then there is more check than tongue.

Ten years ago, Charles Bronson's vehicle *10 to Midnite* might have been directed by Michael Winner, but their old association now seems ended. Instead, Bronson is treated to J. Lee Thompson, a British director of an older, more demure generation. The Bronson persona appears unchanged: granite with a twinkle. The plot is equally familiar: "He's our man, Captain", Police Sergeant Bronson snarls, "and I'm going to get him." He does, too, by fabricating evidence against the cunning murderer of pretty Los Angeles girls and taking the law into his own hands. The Hollywood veteran William Roberto provides an untidy script, yet the product is slightly less reprehensible than expected.

Far from Los Angeles' wailing streets, English cathedral chourboys intone in Latin; bees buzz in hives, source of the wax used for altar candles. This is the world of *A Swarm in May*, adapted from William Mayne's novel, produced by the astonishing Children's Film Unit (supervised by a former teacher, Colin Finbow, but manned entirely by children from 11 to 16). The soundtrack recording and dialogue delivery are flawed, but the colour photography is gloriously confident. The film's homogeneity also satisfies: here is a story about children growing into responsibility, filmed by children engaged in a parallel process through work in the Unit. As with their previous production *Captain Sherrick*, Channel 4 helped provide money, but the Unit still needs a financial lifeline; funding organizations, including the British Film Institute, have been unresponsive, claiming the Unit slips between stools and sponsorship guidelines. They would do well to ponder on Charles Bronson's maxim in *10 to Midnite*: "Forget what's legal and do what's right."

Geoff Brown

Sinfonietta/Pay
Queen Elizabeth Hall/
Radio 3

Early Britten is in favour. After the wonderful revelations of the pre-Op T Four French Songs, and the record including that cycle which Simon Rattle conducted, there seems to be a run on the 1952 Phantasy for string quintet and the little "Alta Marcia" for string quartet.

The tone of the orchestra is not often on the same level of straightforwardness. Rather Roger Norrington conducts a fiery account of the score, working like a poster artist to exaggerate images in the melo-drama or paint movements in quick, bold lines. There is a second performance tonight.

Opera

Fidelio
Sadler's Wells

Here at last is a *Fidelio* that makes good, strong, simple sense. Jonathan Miller's production for Kent Opera, new last October, comes to London with the same cast and the same style of solid dramatic involvement. Maybe this is not the world's best singing *Fidelio*, but it has a quiet honesty that might easily be compromised by vocal heroics. David Johnston's Florestan is a case in point. His is an individual voice, gravely and gently noble, and he uses it to telling effect at every moment of his aria, expressing himself so truly that one almost forgets he is singing at all. It is the music and the situation that come across, not the voice, and the scene is a marvellous vindication of the Kent Opera style.

Teresa Cahill is also right in the spirit of the thing as Leonora. This is not a part she would wish to undertake, I imagine, in larger theatres or against a larger orchestra, but her young, vulnerable heroine works exceedingly well. Again she brings a gentleness to the opera, and a truth, her voice a warm flame of compassion and sensitivity that holds its own well even in the jubilant finale.

She is of course just as well equipped for the domestic scale of the opening in this production, along with Meryl Dwyer as an attractive, unfriendly Marzelline, Mark Curtis a fine, plain Jacquin and Thomas Lawlor a characterful Rocco. Their quartet shows Dr Miller working admirably to make a musical number seem a natural flowering of the drama, not an intrusion. Indeed, one great virtue of this production is the way music happens without any fuss, but comes always to cadence the action, so that the opera inevitably becomes a sequence of ever larger spans as the action becomes more poignant.

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Paul Griffiths

tasteful performance; though the timbre was always pleasing he seemed unable to invest the quieter moments with real intensity. There were fine bassoon and cor anglais solos, taking their part in Bach-like duets with the soloist; but there was always a feeling of detachment – which may indeed lie in the music, since it sounds so much less involved and responsive than Britten's best writing.

Concert
Liszt Illuminations, from 20 years earlier, is far more successful in this respect, and Langridge seemed to respond to its rhapsodic conviction by opening up his voice, to great effect. If at times, in the interlude, for example, one yearned for the smoother sounds of a conventional chamber orchestra, there was much to be said for the Sinfonietta's strongly characterized feeling, which Pay directed firmly, the sustained, muted textures of "Being Beautiful" were magically fit.

The centrepiece of this concert was to have been a new work by the Danish composer Hans Abrahamsen, whose *Winternight* (the Sinfonietta gave earlier this season. But he elected to write a larger work for later, and so instead we had his 1973 Preludes 1-10: witty, striking little ideas for string quartet exploring a C major fragment, or chords above a repeated A flat, or a near-Bach motif, with a gentle insistence that owed little to Reichian minimalism. To end, a jolly diatonic gavotte, and why not?

Nicholas Kenyon

Theatre

Twelfth Night
Stratford

official, every bit as status-conscious as Malvolio, who characteristically dusts the tree stump before sitting down.

Sir Andrew is obviously a non-starter, but that news would be wasted on Daniel Massey, his face breaking into pathetically eager smiles at every sight of the icy Olivia. As for Olivia herself, she speaks for all the others in her lines on catching the plague. Sarah Berger plays her as a sharp-featured heiress to whom disdain comes easily, who is then reduced to naked vulnerability as she comes to the duel (Toby just having landed Sebastian a blow in the groin) she falls on the aggressor, fists flailing and pummelling him to the ground.

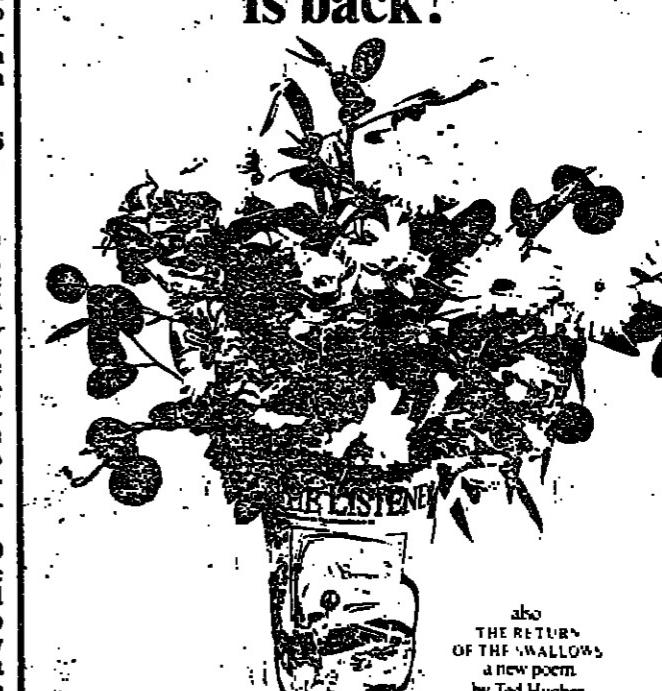
Most pitiful of all is Emrys James's Malvolio, a strutting velvet-uniformed grotesque who sheds all his self-love once his mistress seems to be within reach, and finally appears before her to put simple half-broken questions. When he gets his cruel answer, he bows respectfully to the company and only screams his last line after making a dignified exit. And it is no threat of revenge, simply an explosion of intolerable pain.

As one of the few who benefit from the happy wrack, Zoe Wanamaker's Viola is at a disadvantage in a show that deserves its main sympathy for the losers. Her Viola, blank-faced and inwardly suffering, encompasses lyricism and fun but never takes over the emotional centre.

What emerges in this setting is a tragicomedy of erotic errors. All those involved in it are possessed and hurled on to a fate-over which they have no control. Mr O'Callaghan presents him as a razor-sharp and spiteful observer of the surrounding follies: making a living out of them, and cherishing grievances with a real zest for revenge. The Topaz scene is the ugliest I can remember

Irving Wardle

The Best-of-the-Bunch is back!



Not for nothing is *The Listener* well-known as 'The best written, least partisan, and sweetest-smelling weekly magazine on the news-stand'. This week's issue is out now. Buy it and blossom.

Peter Fiddick: Television and the Nuclear Issue.

Robert Fox: on his love affair with Italy.

John Cole: on Election Fever.

Red Harrison: reports from Australia.

Julian Critchley: on being misunderstood in Washington and London.

John Bowker: The religious views of wives and mothers.

THE LISTENER

**Investment
and
Finance**
City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE BUSINESS TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 692.0 up 13.8
FT GIfts: 81.80 down 0.04
FT All Share: 439.00 up 5.29
Bargains: 23.858
Ting Hall USM Index: 172.0
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 8,543.05 down 21.42
Hongkong Hang Seng Index: 1,001.48 down 8.89
New York Dow Jones Average (latest): 1,194.37 up 2.90

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5435 down 60pts
Index 83.1 down 0.5
DM 3.7925
Fr 11.38
Yen 365
Dollar
Index 122.6 down 0.5
DM 2.4540 down 55pts
Gold
\$437.50 down 50 cents
NEW YORK LATEST
Gold \$439.50

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Base rates 10
3 month interbank 10% = 10
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9 1/4 = 9 1/4
3 month DM 5 1/4 = 4 1/4
3 month Fr 12 1/2 = 12 1/2
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period March 2 to April 5, 1983 inclusive: 10.974 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Bastian Int. 14p up 2p
Charterhall 47p up 6p
Ranger Oil 495p up 55p
Red Exec. 39p up 4p
Grootvlei £11 1/4 up E1 1/4
Jessups 56p up 5p
Barton Group 37 1/2 down 6

Aurora 8p down 1p
Dunlop 52p down 4p
Heifel Bar 32p down 2p
Argyle Trust 39p down 2p
H Samuel "A" 107p down 5p

TODAY

Interims: Newmarket Co (1981).
Finals: Allebone and Sons, Gaskell Broadloom, Helene of London, Scottish Northern Invest, Stylo.
Economic statistics: Retail price index (March), Tax and price index (March), Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Jan).

Lloyd's to probe goods cover
Insurance cover at Lloyd's on behalf of certain manufacturers and retailers of electrical and other domestic goods is to be subject to a full-scale investigation. It will look at business done by Multi Guarantee in respect of which Campbell Roberts and Roberts Morris Bray, both insurance brokers, acted as Lloyd's brokers. The investigating committee will comprise a lawyer and the Peat, Marwick, Mitchell partners who was responsible for a previous report on the subject.

ARGENTINE CUTS: Argentina has agreed to reduce its balance of payments deficit to qualify for a \$1.650m (£1.071m) standby loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) according to a central bank memorandum in Buenos Aires. The maximum will be \$300m against last year's \$4.900m.

DEAL CLEARED: The proposed merger of the automotive electronics interests of Lucas Electrical, part of Lucas Industries and Smiths Industries will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission, the trade department said.

GAS LINE: Imperial Continental Gas has bought an 87 per cent controlling interest in Amerana Oil Corporation, an exploration and production company based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for \$5.1m (£3.3m).

AIR APPEAL: The privately-owned British Midland Airways launched a £100,000 campaign to enlist support for its application to compete with British Airways' shuttle between Heathrow and Belfast. British Midland, which has twice been refused a Civil Aviation Authority Licence for the route, plans a seven-times daily service.

BTR BUYS: Stockbroker Cazenovia and Co was back in the market yesterday for Thomas Tilling shares on behalf of BTR. Still offering 189.5p a share - equivalent to the 185p cash offer BTR is making for Tilling plus 4.5p of dividend contained in the current share price - it is believed the brokers picked up just over 1m shares. This takes the BTR stake in Tilling to just over 8 per cent.

Wall St still rising steadily

Market index jumps 13.8 despite note of caution

ICI shares soar to record 470p on news of improved trading

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

ICI, traditionally the barometer of British industrial health, gave a boost to both the stock market and the Government yesterday when it declared that the economic outlook is more promising than it has been for some time.

Mr John Harvey-Jones, ICI's chairman, told the company's annual meeting that ICI had "a very good March" and predicted that its first quarter trading figures would show a distinct improvement on anything achieved last year.

Although Mr Harvey-Jones cautioned his audience against going overboard about the signs of recovery, his remarks were enough to send ICI's shares up 20p to a high of 470p. The FT index also recovered after three days of faltering to close up 13.8 at 692.9.

A few experts believed some investors had programmes for brokers to sell automatically at the 1200 level of the Dow. "The market is interpreting the economic news favourably, especially the gap report," said Mr Robert Stovali, Dean Witter Reynolds' vice-president.

Cope and Bilton bids in danger

By Andrew Cornelius

Takeover bids for Cope Alman, the leisure and packaging group, and Percy Bilton, the building company, appeared to be about to collapse yesterday at the first closing date for shareholders to accept terms.

Trust Securities, which launched a £107m bid for Bilton last month, has received acceptances for its takeover terms of nine of its shares and 260p cash for every four Bilton shares from just 0.01 per cent of Bilton's shareholders.

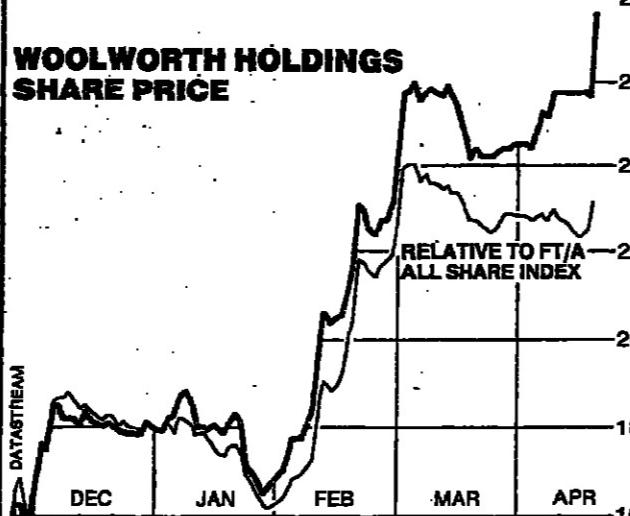
Bilton has contested the bid on the grounds that Mr Peter Jones, chairman of Trust Securities, was convicted of conspiring to defraud the Inland Revenue in January 1980. In addition the Bilton board has reminded shareholders that Trust Securities is a small property developer with 16 employees. It then attacked the Trust's Stockley Park development scheme near Heathrow, on the grounds of very severe doubts about the value.

Despite the reservations, the Trust is extending its takeover terms for a further week.

The Cope Alman board announced that the Downable consortium, headed by Mr David Wickens, chairman of British Car Auctions, had only won acceptances from 2.2 per cent of Cope Alman's ordinary shareholders. However, last night Downable said that it now had effective control of 22.2 per cent of the Cope Alman share capital and had now declared a final closing date for its offer of April 27.

Cope Alman's shares are split between Downable, which has bought a 16 per cent slice in the market, has a 3.5 per cent stake pledged to it, and 2.2 per cent acceptances; institutions which hold 50 per cent of the shares; and Mr Robert Maxwell's Hollis & ESA Group which holds 7.5 per cent shares.

Mr Wickens said that the current share price of Cope Alman was sustained at 61p by the hope that Mr Maxwell would outbid Downable, which is offering 60p per share to value Cope at £23m. However, he said that if Downable failed to make a bid Cope shares were likely to fall back below 60p.



Shares in Woolworth Holdings jumped 22p yesterday to a high of 277p on the news that profits of FW Woolworth had jumped 24 per cent to £47.4m - well ahead of stock market expectations.

The market was also impressed by remarks from Mr John Beckett, chairman of Woolworth Holdings, who told shareholders in a statement that

Investors' Notebook, page 18

moves in hand to improve the group's performance "should show benefit in the current year". He added that he was optimistic about the group's longer term future.

Woolworth is reviewing its merchandise to cut down the number of lines, and to ensure price competitiveness.

Investors' Notebook, page 18

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More modern leaders, like David Basnett, had decided that because trade unions generate a lot of cash they should have an interface into the economy with this money."

News of the new bank accompanied the Co-op Bank's report and accounts for 1982 showing a significant drop in group profits from £3.63m to £1.69m pretax.

Rising bad debt provisions - up from £3.55m to £7.87m - and a heavy investment programme contributed to the decline although the bank itself stemmed the fall in operating profit to £3.9m compared with £5.3m in 1981.

Much of the damage was caused by the First Co-operative Finance house. The Co-op Bank expects the finance house to return to profit this year but last year its losses rose sharply to £2.3m and management has been changed.

"Historically, the British trade unions thought that the way to fight for power was by putting people into Westminster," Mr Lee said. "But the

letter said that the top management of Harrods recited what you expect them to do?"

Mr Graham Brown, a director

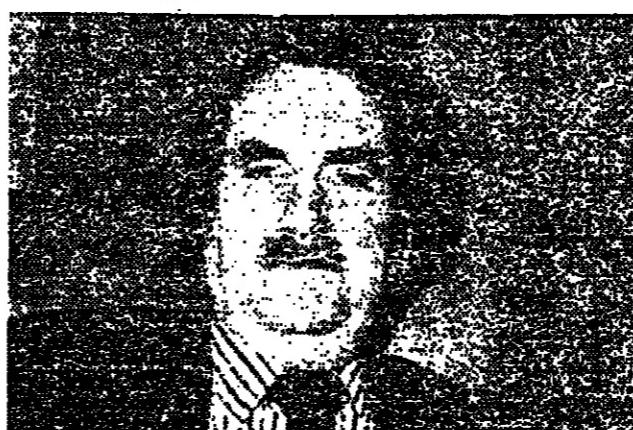
more modern leaders, like David Basnett, had decided that because trade unions generate a lot of cash they should have an interface into the economy with this money."

Sir Peter Baxendell, in his chairman's statement, said that present oil market conditions were a disincentive to the early development of synthetic fuels and several conventional oil developments could also prove uneconomic, especially if oil prices continued to weaken.

"Many governments will

have to introduce fiscal arrangements appropriate to the new environment to encourage investment by the industry in producing hydrocarbons".

Sir Peter, whose salary rose from £170,049 to £192,553 last year, said the financial strength of the group, with £4.079m in cash and short-term securities, was reassuring as Shell faced up to an uncertain energy world.



Harvey-Jones: positive signs of change.

confidence on both sides of the Atlantic."

People should not allow themselves to be misled by these positive signs, and it was clear that many of the key factors affecting ICI's business were still volatile.

"But the outlook is at least more promising than it has

been for some time. It may be a false dawn, but it would be a pretty poor outlook if we couldn't take pleasure in some good news for a change," he said.

There has been strong buying of ICI's shares for several months, and yesterday's remarks by the chairman more

than fulfilled the expectations of the market.

The bullish statement helped to add more than £210m to the company's market capitalization, and means that stockbrokers are revising upwards their estimates of this year's full-year results to between £450m and £500m.

The company also revealed

that the chairman, directors and 100 senior managers have all forgone pay increases of 8 per cent which were due to be paid to them in January. Mr Harvey-Jones who earns £150,000 a year, has waived a rise of £240 a week. "We feel we should not get automatic pay rises when the company isn't performing adequately," he said.

ICI made profits of £259m last year, down from £355m in 1981 and the 1979 peak of £613m. Last year's performance was "inadequate", Mr Harvey-Jones said. But although 1982 was an "awful" year for the chemical industry, the company had not been outperformed.

The French, who may not count but have diplomatic style, have duly upstaged Japan by calling for a new Bretton Woods conference in Paris next year. It would set up a new regime, presumably of fixed exchange rates orchestrated by the International Monetary Fund. But their grand gesture could be a red herring.

As the wise Dr Ottmar Emminger pointed out at the same Tokyo conference, it is quite unrealistic to talk of a fixed rate dollar at the moment.

It must all be done gradually, but start now. The world's top seven finance ministers will meet in Washington next week to prepare for the Williamsburg summit. They will discuss the OECD report which clearly favours intervention.

The summit itself will discuss the yet more vital question of trying to coordinate interest rate policies. Both meetings will feature six against one - or five-and-a-half if you allow for Britain's lukewarm approach. But America is the one that matters.

MINING FALL: Zimbabwe's mining output fell for the second successive year in 1982, and the industry is probably in its worst shape for 25 years, according to Mr Roy Lander, president of the Chamber of Mines.

Exploration spending up at Shell

By Our Energy Correspondent

Shell is planning to spend a record £5,700m on capital expenditure and exploration this year, 8 per cent more than last year's £5.275m.

According to the Anglo-Dutch oil company's annual report, published yesterday, a significant proportion will go on the development of new fields in the North Sea. In real terms, however, allowing for inflation and recent movements in exchange rates, the level of capital spending will remain roughly flat, as it did last year.

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Attributable loss of £80m at Dunlop

By Sally White

Dunlop is planning to cut costs after the pre-tax loss of £7m last year, and loss attributable to share holders of £80m including extraordinary debts of £28m. The workforce in Britain has been reduced from 29,000 to just under 25,000. There is no final dividend.

Sir Campbell Fraser, Dunlop's chairman, refused to give details of this year's cost cutting plans. He was unable to predict when the Malaysian authorities would sanction the sale of part of Dunlop, Malaysian Industries to Pegi Malaysia Berhad, which will bring in £55m cash. There were no plans, he said, to sell other parts of the business.

Pegi, which is now the largest shareholder in Dunlop with a 26.1 per cent holding has not

asked for talks. Speculation that Pegi might bid for Dunlop took the share price up to 60p recently although it closed down 4p at 52p yesterday.

The group's main problems remain in its European tyre business because of the pressure on margins caused by the slump in car sales during the recession, and growing imports.

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Overseas profits are up as a whole. The difficult areas, apart from Britain, are France and Ireland.

Investors' Notebook, page 18

tutions have bid between 340p and 350p for the shares, which were offered at 275p. But the tenders from individuals were much lower, which is thought to reflect the fact that they do not realize they will be called upon to pay only the eventual striking price.

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Hanson emerges from UDS fog

relying on the tried and tested formula of looking at the whole business.

Since Christmas the market has responded by pushing the share price from around 160p to a modern record of 277p.

At that price there are still plenty of firm holders of the shares. So far they are sufficiently in the ascendancy to outweigh the other school of thought which, more conservatively, points to a long line of false dawns.

Woolworth

F. W. Woolworth
Year to Jan 29 1983
Pre-tax profit £47.4m (£38.3m)
Turnover £1,244m (£1,001m)
Share price 277 (240p)

The difficulty in analysing Woolworth is that it is in a state of transition from the old F. W. Woolworth controlled by the US parent group, to the new, British-controlled, Woolworth Holdings which made a successful takeover bid for the whole company at the end of 1982.

The table gives comparable figures for F. W. Woolworth, showing a handy 24 per cent increase in pre-tax profit over the previous year. Like many other retailers Woolworth was hauled out by a better second half to its financial year, but in its case much of the improvement came from its B & Q do-it-yourself chain, while the traditional 1,000 or so traditional stores did little better than that.

If the figures were presented under the new capital structure of the group, pre-tax profit would be down from £24.7m to £20.5m due to the much higher interest charges resulting from bank loans and loan stock interest incurred as part of the bid. The new Woolworth is a highly geared company.

While Woolworth has spent heavily and cut back severely, so have its competitors, thus margins are still too small. Profits from non-tire products in Britain are now improving, and cost improvements are coming through. Overseas, notably the United States, is improving. But market hopes are for a small profit at the pre-tax level at best and a continued loss at the attributable level.

Radical structural changes are expected in the group to cut losses further, and the market is

also expecting a financial reconstruction at some stage.

But cooling bid speculation and disappointment on the lack of dividend are expected to pull back the share price.

Laporte

Laporte Industries
Year to 21.1.83
Pre-tax profit £20.7m (£15.2m)
Turnover £1,182m (£1,100m)
Share price 224.9m (£214.7m)
Net final dividend 5.25p, mktg 1.75p
(70)
Share price 238p, up 7p
Yield 4.2%

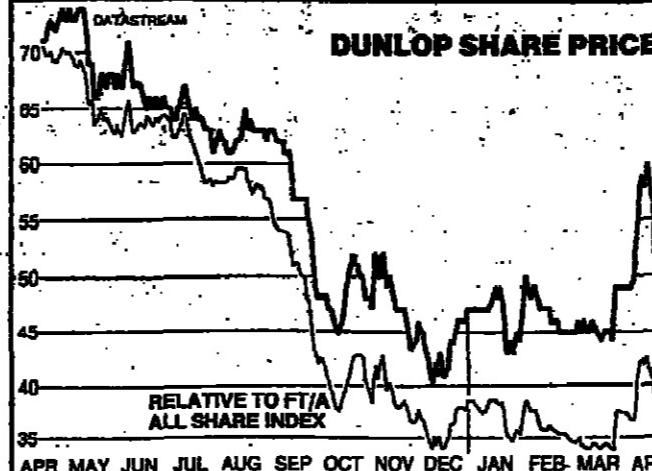
Tight cost controls allowed speciality chemical group Laporte Industries to raise profits by a 36 per cent rise to £20.7m in the year to January 21. Sales were up only 13 per cent.

Although the traditional businesses were flat the group had better profits from titanium dioxide and benefits from acquisitions.

The fall in sterling will help exports this year, and there will be continued contributions from cost cutting. Although the rate of profit improvements slowed in the second half, the market is hoping for £27m before tax this year.

The share price benefited yesterday from the firm statement in chemicals after the cheerful ICI statement, but later fell on profit-taking to 298p, a rise on the day of 7p.

Hopes of a further dividend rise this year and continued recovery in trading make continued rises in the share price likely.



Dunlop Holdings

Dunlop Holdings
Year to 31.12.82
Pre-tax loss £7.0m (break-even)
Stated earnings 45.5p (38.6p)
Turnover £1,525m (£1,456m)
Net final dividend 5.25p, mktg 1.75p
(70)
Share price 52p, up 3p. Yield 5.3%

ing in the second half. Borrowings rose £55m to £418m at the year end, and the debt to equity ratio was 94 per cent.

Tyres in the United Kingdom were the main source of Dunlop's problems. The total loss in Britain was £10m, and in the rest of the EEC £6m.

Operating profits in the rest of the world totalled £57m. Worldwide tyre profits came to £31m. Up £3m, industry and consumer profits rose £1m at £18, but there was a £1m loss on sports goods because of impact of the American recession, and engineering profits were halved at £3m.

In practice, the UDS imbroglio does not leave any clear moral decision. After all, the UDS board, under pressure from Hill Samuel, was prepared to contemplate a part sale to Burton to retain independence.

Since a takeover stalemate is likely, Hanson and Bassinshaw should be able to sort the things out between themselves for Bassinshaw wants to buy Richard Shops and John Collier.

In these circumstances shareholders should feel no qualms about going for Hanson and then passing their views to the Director-General of Fair Trading.

Dunlop has announced losses that at the level of attribution to shareholders come to £52m and after extraordinary items total £80m. Operational profit fell from £52m to £41m, and margin pressure in the tyre market in Europe was worsened.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Thursday 19th May, at 10.30 a.m. in the "Nederlands Congresgebouw", 10 Churchillplein, The Hague, The Netherlands.

AGENDA:

- Annual Report for 1982
- Finalization of the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account together with the Notes thereto for 1982 and declaration of the final dividend for 1982
- Appointment of a member of the Board of Management.
- Appointment of a member of the Supervisory Board
- Appointment of a member of the Supervisory Board owing to retirement by rotation

The documents referred to under items 1 and 2 are available for inspection and may be obtained free of charge at the Company's office 30 Carel van Bylandstraat, The Hague, and at the head office of N M Rothschild & Sons Limited, London.

The nominations for the appointments referred to under items 3-5 are available for inspection at the Company's office. The nomination for the appointment referred to under item 3 lists Mr H de Ruiter first and Mr H Hooykamp second; that for the appointment referred to under item 4 lists Mr A P J Barend first and Mr W M J Ruijsdijk second; and that for the appointment referred to under item 5 lists Mr G A Wagner first and Mr C T Douwes second.

REGISTRATION:

- Holders of share certificates to bearer may attend the meeting if their share certificates or evidence that their certificates are held in open custody by De Nederlandsche Bank N V, are deposited against receipt not later than 13th May, 1983, at the bank mentioned below.
- H.M. Rothschild & Sons Limited, London.

- Holders of registered shares may attend the meeting if they make their intention to do so known to the Company in writing at the place and by the time indicated below.

- with respect to shares of The Hague Registry at the Company's office at The Hague, not later than 13th May, 1983;

- with respect to shares of Amsterdam Registry at the office of Algemene Bank Nederland N.V., C.K.E., P.O. Box 2233, Breda, The Netherlands not later than 13th May, 1983;

- with respect to shares of New York Registry at the office of The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., New York, not later than 12th May, 1983.

C. Holders of certificates for "New York shares", which are depositary receipts issued pursuant to an agreement dated 10th September 1918, under which The Chase Manhattan Bank N.A. is successor depository may attend the meeting if their certificates for "New York shares" are deposited against receipt not later than 13th May, 1983, at the office of Algemene Bank Nederland N.V., C.K.E., P.O. Box 2233, Breda, The Netherlands, or The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., New York.

D. Usurfructuaries and pledges with voting rights: what is stated above under A and B regarding registration is correspondingly applicable to usurfructuaries and pledges of bearer shares or registered shares if they have voting rights.

POWERS OF ATTORNEY:

The persons mentioned above under A, B, C and D who wish to have themselves represented at the meeting by a proxy must not only comply with what is stated above under A, B, C and D respectively but also deposit a written power of attorney not later than 13th May, 1983, at the Company's office, 30 Carel van Bylandstraat, The Hague or at the office of N M Rothschild & Sons Limited, London. If desired, forms which are obtainable free of charge at the Company's office and the head office of the above-mentioned bank may be used for this purpose.

The Hague, 22nd April, 1983

The Supervisory Board

N.V. Koninklijke Nederlandsche Petroleum Maatschappij

Established at The Hague, The Netherlands

NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION Notice of Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the one hundred and forty-seventh annual general meeting of National Provident Institution will be held at the City Conference Centre, 76, Mark Lane, London EC3, on Tuesday 24 May at 12.15pm for the transaction of the following business:

To receive and consider the accounts and the report of the directors for the year ended 31 December 1982.

To re-elect directors.

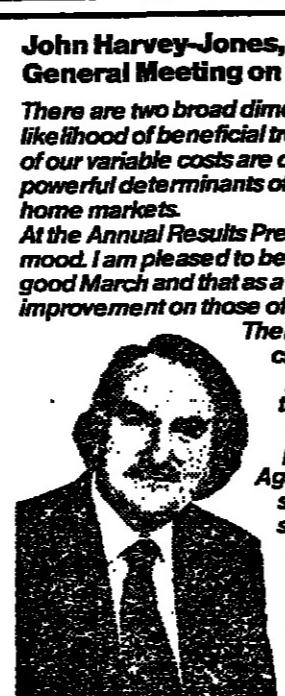
To re-appoint Deloitte Haskins & Sells as auditors, and to authorise the directors to determine their remuneration.

By order of the Board,
G. V. Bayley, General Manager and Actuary,
19 April 1983



48, GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON EC3.

Our first and overriding aim is an increase in profits.



Among the other points made by the Chairman:

In 1982 – an awful year in the history of the chemical industry – the strongest chemical companies in the strongest OECD economies all came under siege. I do not think anybody can say we were out-performed, even in our worst hit areas.

"Our current financial position is strong"

Obviously, profits of the 1980-82 variety are no recipe for a successful chemical company and our first priority must be to restore profitability by every means in our power. That said, our current financial position is strong.

In 1982, we met all our cash requirements from internally generated funds. We paid back loans amounting to a net £103m and we emerged from the year with net liquid resources of £64m.

We controlled and reduced capital expenditure without dislocating or inhibiting our market activities.

The Board's decision to declare an unchanged dividend – in spite of deepening recession in 1982 and reduced profits – reflects an overall judgement which strikes a balance between our 1982 results, our general financial position and our business prospects.

"Our overriding need is to remain internationally competitive. We are more than holding our own."

In the current economic situation, where there is a strong element of survival of the fittest, it is vital to measure our performance and stamina directly with those of our competitors. I am pleased to say that the evidence we have leads us to conclude we are more than holding our own.

Broadly speaking, pharmaceuticals, explosives, paints and agricultural products have again done well in 1982 accounting for a hefty £2.6bn of our turnover in spite of worsening economic conditions.

The performance of the pharmaceutical business was exceptional, enabling us to continue with vital and extensive research programmes which otherwise could not be undertaken.

Oil, with a turnover of £1bn, is also part of the success story, although the £2.3m contribution oil made to ICI trading profit was a good deal lower than the £223m contribution it made to the Exchequer – a case of one for us and three for them.

General chemicals achieved a useful contribution to trading profit of £60m in 1982 in extremely difficult circumstances and we can confidently expect that performance in this £1.4bn business area will improve as manufacturing industry picks up. Despite the overall drop in European textile fibre consumption, fibres reduced their trading loss by 30%. Organic chemicals also reduced their loss by 40%. Together, they account for just over £1bn of our turnover.

* Worldwide chemical sales by volume in 1982 went up by 3%; UK chemical sales by volume rose by 2% and exports by 7%.

* Sales increased by £770m but profits reduced by £76m.

* Our pre-tax profit of £259m was an inadequate return for all the effort and skills which went into making and selling £7.55bn worth of goods.

Undoubtedly the major impact on profitability came from the substantially increased loss of £139m in petrochemicals and plastics, which accounts for almost £2bn of current sales turnover.

Our strategy in commodity petrochemicals and bulk polymers has been, and still is, to concentrate in our most competitive areas, to rationalise and reduce costs. I believe we have acted quickly and responsibly and done everything in our power both to safeguard job prospects in these businesses and preserve as much as possible of our investment. Against the background of massive losses, the Western European chemical industry must re-structure much more to reduce both excess capacity and the number of companies in the market. Until it does, notwithstanding our clear resolve to win through, chemicals and plastics will continue

to be an area for further cost cutting and rationalisation. The short-term position should improve significantly as the full benefit of cost reduction and efficiency improvement comes through.

Out of a total of more than £7bn of business, less than a third has problems. The performance and prospects of 70% are good.

"Our technological base in some aspects leads the world"

Last year we spent some £94m on acquisitions and investments in associated companies including the Holden, PCUK and Lonza acquisitions – supporting our strategy to strengthen and extend our base as market leaders.

We have also identified several new business areas. The general thrust is towards more speciality chemicals. Our technological base is very wide, has few gaps, is fully competitive and in some aspects leads the world. We intend to add to our range of speciality chemicals. Last year we made a significant shift in this direction.

"I believe we are getting on top of the problems caused by a depressed and volatile economic environment"

Today I speak on behalf of a smaller Board, comprising beside myself seven other Executive Directors and from today six non-Executive Directors.

These thirteen, together with our manager's and workforce are a fine team to lead. We can depend on them. They are facing the challenges and unrelenting burdens of these difficult times with resilience and tenacity.

I believe we are strong enough to find and hold to the right long-term path. In this our first and overriding aim is an increase in profits. It is only through greater success in that key factor that we can properly meet the justifiable expectations of you, our shareholders, our employees, and our customers.



Imperial Chemical Industries PLC

APPOINTMENTS

Turner & Newall changes top roles

With the post of group managing director lapsing at Turner & Newall, Mr R. D. N. Somerville will deputise for the chairman, Sir Frank Toms, as chief executive.

In other Turner & Newall changes, Mr D. W. Hills has been appointed chairman of TBA Industrial Products and T-Glass Fibres; Mr D. G. Carruthers, chief executive of Ferodo, has been appointed a divisional chairman and chairman of Ferodo, Stokey, Decorative Products and Extridec Products. Mr Carruthers and Mr Hills have been appointed directors of T & N Materials Research.

Mr H. D. S. Hardie, personnel and external relations director of Turner & Newall, has been appointed chairman of the company's Nigerian subsidiary.

Mr Philip Massey has been appointed president of Royal Worcester Spode (Canada). Mr William Sherman has been appointed vice-president, finance and administration of Royal Worcester Spode Inc.

Mr Peter Woodward, has been appointed deputy chief executive of Intasun Leisure Group in addition to his role as financial director.

Mr David Morris, a Caribbean director at Barclays Bank International's Caribbean head office in Barbados, has been appointed chairman and an executive director of the Caribbean board from July 16. Mr Bernard Clarke has been appointed an executive director from April 29.

Mr Henry Prevezor has been appointed a non-executive director of Forward Technology Industries.

Mr Hugh Lang has been named a member of the Design Council until December 31, 1985. He is chairman of both P-E International and Redman Heenan International.

Mr Alan Permain has been appointed divisional director of Towco, and will be responsible for maintenance, smaller works and energy management systems. Mr Eddie Mohar has been appointed divisional director responsible for the electrical division.

After success with TVs and cars, foreign investment is target, says Graham Searjeant

At last, a Japanese export from which Britain can benefit

Japan is now poised to achieve the same sort of dynamic impact exporting its capital and manufacturing expertise as it has at exporting televisions, cars and motorcycles. According to projections by the Japan Economic Research Centre, its real investments abroad could grow from just \$45,000m at the end of 1981 to a huge \$155,000m by 1990, making it second in the world investment league as it is among the world's economies.

Japan was preoccupied with postwar reconstruction and domestic growth until the late 1960s. Although it hardly started investing abroad until 1969, it had already amassed 7 per cent of the world's foreign investments a dozen years later. This is about the same as Germany or Switzerland and only 2 per cent behind the share accumulated by Britain over centuries. The United States accounts for two-fifths of the total.

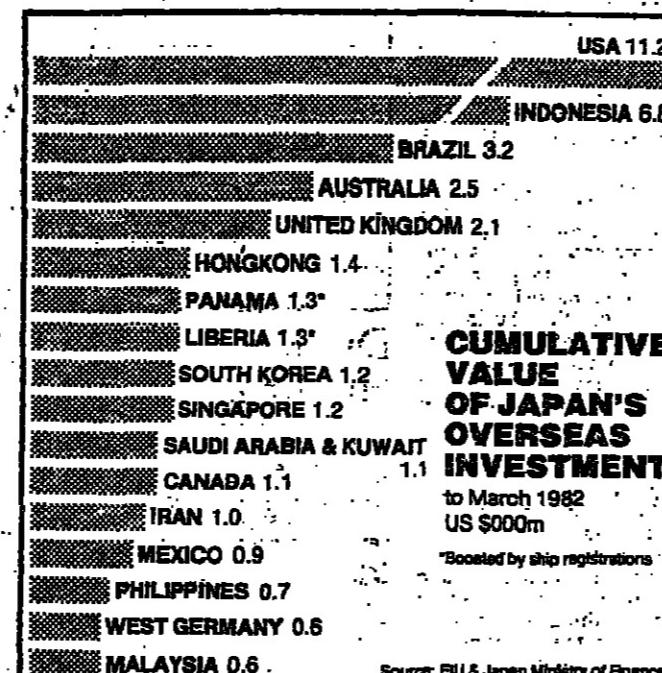
More than half Japan's investments have been made in the past four years. So, despite Britain's policy of investing much of the proceeds of North Sea oil overseas for the future, Japan is likely to sail ahead of us in short time.

The irony of this is that Britain looks like becoming one of the favoured recipients of Japanese investment in the future, as it had been in the past few years. This is the result of a striking shift in Japanese policy, according to a new study written by this Far East specialist Felicity Marsh for the Government's Intelligence Unit.

Japan's push abroad can be dated from 1969, when its Ministry of International Trade and Industry started dismantling export controls and introduced instead a series of aids and incentives, including company tax concessions, no tax on Japanese employees working abroad, low-cost finance and government support against losses. The switch was an early response to economic success. Japan had just managed to combine 10 per cent growth with a hefty trade surplus and was afraid that the yen would rise too much if nothing were done.

But in the early stages Japan was preoccupied with its position as the leading industrial country most dependent on imported raw materials. Investment was first directed at securing supplies by helping and financing resource developments in Asia, Australia and also Brazil, which co-incidentally had the largest overseas population of ethnic Japanese.

But since the post-1979



slump, MITI's priorities have had to change again as a result of the upsurge in protectionism in general and the increasingly shrill attacks on Japan's exports to the US and EEC countries in particular. The Japanese had three choices: restrain exports, increase imports or invest in local production. It was not a hard choice.

A fifth of Japanese exports are already subject to increasingly tough voluntary restraint agreements. And it is hard for even a willing Japanese government to guarantee that its highly nationalistic consumers will lay up foreign manufacturers, however much they may now buy American basic foods.

This has led to a significant switch to invest in other leading industrial countries and a much greater emphasis on building manufacturing plants in its biggest markets. As the EIU report suggests, "the image of Japan as a force for the revitalisation of sectors of industry in the West will go some way to sugar the pill as

Japanese dominance or ownership of much of these industries". There are side benefits of this switch such as greater political security, more intimate connection with electronic technology centres and, in Britain, lower wages than back home. But protectionism is the spur.

The US is taking the lion's share of this new wave of investment. It is projected to take \$44,000m of that \$155,000m 1990 total... But Britain is already, clearly the second, most likely recipient.

We already account for 4.7 per cent of Japan's overseas investments, fifth in the league. We have nearly half the total for Europe and three times that of our nearest rival, West Germany.

This trend is likely to continue. Apart from cheap labour, the familiar reports from Japanese-managed factories in Britain - making anything from zips to television sets for both sides and the Japanese

have clearly formed an attachment for South Wales. In the latest official survey, the main Japanese complaints centred on their children learning English with Welsh accents and on the paucity of Japanese restaurants outside London.

Given this, Britain has overwhelming language advantages for the Japanese, who learn English at school but are, on the whole, no better linguists than ourselves.

Britain, on the other hand, has yet to decide how enthusiastically it wishes to form an alliance with Japanese companies as their platform for the European market.

There are clearly doubts. After all, the Government extols the value of our investing abroad as a platform for our own exports and what is true for us must also be true for Japan.

This, more than anything, has so far dogged the crucial proposed Datun oil plant, a pipeline through the appalling complexities posed by the conflicting demands of the oil companies, Saudi Arabia, other Opec members, the Reagan Administration and (not least) the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is probably being too cynical to suggest that the Government might have taken a more relaxed view of Opec's challenge if an election was not coming up.

The evidence is inconclusive. But it does suggest that in some industries at least, Japanese capacity abroad replaces that at home rather than local factors. And, with Britain's position as a fairly small segment of the European market, extra imports into Britain from Japan are likely to be outweighed by Anglo-Japanese exports to the continent. Sony, for instance, has won a Queen's award for export. Imports are only a threat if you think in the narrow terms of bilateral trade.

But it is vital that Britain should make its mind up whether or not to back Anglo-Japanese enterprise to the hilt. Italy failed to ban imports of British-made Sony television sets.

But the Triumph/Honda incident was a reminder that France and Italy in particular will demand impossibly high local content for cars and many other products if they are to be classed as made in the EEC for tariff purposes. If we are to get the benefit of Japanese investment, Britain will have to lobby hard to protect its new Japanese-aided export markets in the UK.

Japanese Overseas Investment: the new challenge by Felicity Marsh, Economist Intelligence Unit. £45.

Industrial notebook The paradox of oil policies

Those who are partial to current affairs quizzes might care to try this question. Which leading politician delivered himself a few days ago of the following remarks: "The market place is no textbook model, no abstract set of equations. It is a bustling imperfect real world of conflict and cooperation, of risk and reward, of expectations and uncertainties".

Hardly profound words, perhaps, but ones that would do - at a pinch - as the rationale for a left-wing government's policy of intervention in industry. The fact that they were spoken by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Energy Secretary, a Tory whose devotion to the free market has previously been thought to know few bounds, makes them rather unusual.

But then the political complexities and diplomatic niceties of the international oil market - the "imperfect real world" to which Mr Lawson was referring - has thrown up quite a few paradoxes in recent weeks, all stemming from the deep and uncomfortable ambivalence with which this Government regards North Sea oil.

Ever since the Organization of Petroleum Exporting countries (Opec) craftily, but unkindly, dumped responsibility for the future oil prices in Britain's lap by challenging its to wreck their precarious oil pricing agreement by bringing down the price of North Sea oil, Mr Lawson has been in the thick of it. In rapid order he has found himself having to justify and defend a series of propositions which appear to be out of kilter with his political instincts.

High oil prices may have been the economic scourge of the 1970s, but it would be damaging if they were now to fall as sharply as they once rose. Mr Lawson repeated at an absorbing session this week of the House of Commons Select Committee on Energy.

The Government believes that market forces should, and do, prevail in the oil business as in every other, but it also has a legitimate right to exercise its influence on the

Jonathan Davis

IMI

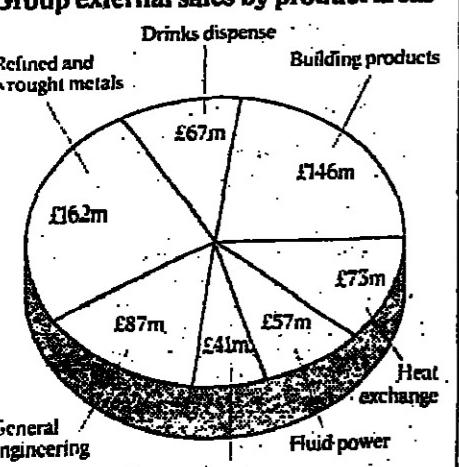
BUILDING PRODUCTS • HEAT EXCHANGE • DRINKS DISPENSE • FLUID POWER
SPECIAL-PURPOSE VALVES • GENERAL ENGINEERING • REFINED AND WROUGHT METALS

Some upturn in our confidence

Sir Robert Clark, Chairman, reports on a year of mixed fortunes:

A somewhat depressing first half was followed by more encouragement in the second. In total, trading profits amounted to £33.5 million, an increase of 16 per cent over the 1981 figure, but higher interest charges meant that profit before tax fell by £1.9 million to £21.9 million. 46 per cent of total turnover was sold abroad, 30 per cent being overseas manufacture which generated 44 per cent of trading profit, a figure which underlines both the harshness of the trading climate in the UK and the validity of our policy of increasing our overseas involvement. Our balance sheet remains strong.

Group external sales by product areas



Summary of Results

	1982 £'000	1981 £'000
Sales to external customers	632,659	532,468
Group trading profit	33,533	28,882
Profit before taxation	21,947	23,808
Earnings applicable to shareholders	10,747	15,303
Total assets	337,563	324,525

Earnings per share (excluding extraordinary items)

Dividend per share

PRELIMINARY RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 29 JANUARY 1983

"Since Woolworth Holdings assumed control of F W Woolworth last November, my confidence has increased in the potential that this imaginative acquisition has presented."

John Beckett, Chairman.

Trading Results

"The trading profit for F W Woolworth and its subsidiaries increased by nearly 24% to £58.4 million. The main part of the increase was attributable to B & Q, our DIY chain.

Profits from the sale of properties were £16.2 million, virtually the same as the previous year.

The resultant profit before tax for F W Woolworth for the year was £47.4 million (before extraordinary items of £6.8 million) compared with £38.3 million the previous year.

The pro-forma annualised income statement for Woolworth Holdings shows that the profit before tax and extraordinary items would have been £20.5 million if Woolworth Holdings had owned F W Woolworth for a full year.

The First Steps

On assuming control, a thorough review of Woolworth's operations was put in hand. A number of matters which prompted immediate action soon became apparent:-

"We have instituted a full-scale review of the merchandise range to eliminate

unnecessary lines and an assessment of our prices to ensure we become competitive.

"We introduced a new organisation structure in the field and reduced the size of our head office.

"We commenced a programme to reduce excessive stocks.

"Two relatively new trading ventures, namely Shoppers World and 21st Century, were unlikely to become profitable... action is being taken.

"We stopped property disposals until our review of the business is complete."

The Future

For the longer-term future, I am confident the Company can look forward with optimism.

We have to identify what the customer wants and those wants that we aim to satisfy; we have to establish a clear position for Woolworth in the High Street in which it can excel.

I am paying particular attention to management and organisation. The ambiguities must be removed and clear objectives set for each part of the organisation. We have already taken some steps to divide the group into more manageable units. ■

The Annual Report will be posted to shareholders on 19 May. Non-shareholders who would like to receive a copy should write to Neil Whittaker, Company Secretary, Woolworth Holdings plc, Woolworth House, 242-246 Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JL.

WOOLWORTH HOLDINGS plc

House of Lords

No trade-dispute immunity for secondary action

Merkur Island Shipping Corporation v Laughton and Others
Before Lord Diplock, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Brightman
(Speeches delivered April 21)

The immunity from action in tort granted by section 13(1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 in respect of acts done in furtherance of a trade dispute was withdrawn by section 17(1) of the Employment Act 1980, when a person, in furtherance of a trade dispute, induced or procured employees of an employer who was not a party to the dispute to break their contracts of employment and such breach necessarily constituted an interference in the performance of a contract for the supply of services because the procuring of the breaches of contracts of employment in such circumstances amounted to "secondary action" within the meaning of section 17(2) of the 1980 Act and did not satisfy the requirements of section 17(3).

The provisions in question were reprehensibly lacking in the clarity required from legislation dealing with industrial relations.

The House of Lords unanimously dismissed an appeal from the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice O'Conor and Lord Justice Dillon) on November 4, 1982 ("The Appeal November 5, 1982"), whereby the court dismissed an appeal by appellants, officers of the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) from an order of Mr Justice Parker, of July 23, 1983, granting interlocutory injunctions in effect requiring them to lift the blocking of the vessel Hoegh Apapa at Liverpool to refuse to assist in the removal of a trade dispute between the owners of the vessel and the ITF.

On July 15, 1982, the vessel, which was let under a time charter to Leif Hoegh & Co, and sub-chartered to Ned Lloyd, arrived at Liverpool dock for loading. Having learnt that the shipowners were paying its largely Filipino crew less than the rate of wages approved by ITF, ITF persuaded tugmen employed by tugmen to refuse in breach of their contract of employment to carry out operations necessary to enable the ship to leave the dock.

The shipowner obtained an injunction from Mr Justice Parker requiring ITF to lift the blocking on the ship but, on the same day a particularly high tide required lockkeepers to leave the docks gates open and the ship escaped from the dock without the use of tugs.

Mr Cyril Newman, QC and Mr Nicholas Merriman for ITF, Mr Roger Buckley, QC and Mr Timothy Charlton for the shipowners, LORD DIPLOCK said that the injunction came too late to have prevented consequences but the question whether Mr Justice Parker misdirected himself in his holding that the shipowners had a cause of action against ITF had not been rendered wholly academic.

The shipowner's writ included

claims in tort for damages under two alternative heads: (1) damages for deliberate interference with or threat to the performance of the time charter with Leif Hoegh & Co; and (2) damages for deliberate interference with and/or threat to the trade and business of the shipowners, such interference being brought about by unlawful means, namely wrongfully procuring and/or inducing and/or threatening a person or persons concerned with the free passage and operation of vessels at Liverpool to refuse to assist in the free passage or working of the ship.

It was under (1) that Mr Justice Parker held that the shipowners had shown a cause of action at common law in respect of which it was unlikely that ITF would succeed in establishing an immunity from liability under section 13 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 as modified by section 17 of the Employment Act 1980.

Before the 1980 Act, the question whether there was an unlawful interference was lawful involving a stage-by-stage approach. Stage 1 was to determine whether the plaintiff had established that what was done in the course of "blocking" would have given him a cause of action in tort but for the 1974 Act. If so, stage 2 was to determine whether that cause of action was removed by section 17(1) of the 1980 Act added stage 3 - to determine whether the cause of action removed by the 1974 Act was restored by section 17 of the 1980 Act.

In the present case it was submitted that Mr Justice Parker was wrong in holding that there was any such tort at common law as alleged in head (1) of the writ (stage 1); and that the judge had erred in applying section 17 of the 1980 Act.

The Court of Appeal upheld the judgment on the stage 1 point. On the stage 3 point their Lordships regarded themselves as bound, like the judge below, by *Marina Shipping Ltd v Laughton (The Antenna)* ([1982] QB 1127).

It was important for the shipowners to establish a cause of action under head (1) of the writ since the cause of action under head (2) would be removed by section 17(2) of the 1974 Act and would not be restored by section 17 of the 1980 Act.

The Court of Appeal upheld the judgment on the stage 1 point. On the stage 3 point their Lordships regarded themselves as bound, like the judge below, by *Marina Shipping Ltd v Laughton (The Antenna)* ([1982] QB 1127).

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With regard to stage 1, the common law tort relied upon by the shipowners under head (1) of the writ was interfering by unlawful means with the performance of a contract.

The contract was the charter and the interference was immobilising the ship in Liverpool to prevent the captain from performing the contractual obligation of the shipowners under clause 8 of the charter to "prosecute his voyages with the utmost despatch".

The unlawful means was procuring the tugmen and the lockmen to break their contracts of employment by refusing to carry out operations necessary to enable the ship to leave the dock.

The essential elements of the tort

of actionable interference with contractual rights by "blocking" were stated by Lord Justice Jenkins in *D.C. Thomson & Co Ltd v Deakin* ([1952] 1 Ch 646): "first, that the person charged with actionable interference knew of the existence of the contract and intended to procure its breach; secondly, that the person so charged did definitely and unequivocally persuade, induce or procure the employee concerned to proceed with the intent mentioned; thirdly, that the employee so persuaded induced or procured in fact to break their contracts of employment; and fourthly, that the breach of the contract forming the alleged subject of interference ensued as a necessary consequence of the breach by the employees concerned of their contracts of employment."

Though using the expression "blocking", Lord Justice Jenkins was not intending to confine the tort to the procuring of non-performance of primary obligations under a contract, he was making clear that immunity was not to be derived from secondary obligations to make monetary compensation by way of damages.

His Lordship turned to the four elements of the tort of actionable interference with contractual rights, but substituting "interference with performance" for "blocking", except in relation to the breaking by employees of their own contracts of employment.

The second condition in section 17(1)(b) was more complex. There had to be "secondary action" as defined in subsection (2). By that subsection withdrawal of immunity was confined to a sub-species of the torts in section 13(1) of the 1974 Act in which the means of interference with the performance of a contract was to procure employees of an employer who was not a party to a trade dispute to break their contracts of employment.

Subsection (3) went on to limit the withdrawal of immunity to a sub-species of secondary action as defined by reference to its purpose and the likelihood of achieving that purpose, with reference to subsection (6).

Resorting into subsection (3) (a) the relevant definitions from subsection (6) the paragraph would run as follows: "(3) Secondary action satisfies the requirements of this subsection if - (a) the purpose or principal purpose of the secondary action was to prevent or disrupt, during the trade dispute, the supply of goods or services between parties to a contract to which such services are agreed to be supplied; or (b) it is a contract between the employer under the contract of employment to which the secondary action relates, and (ii) the prevention or disruption of the supply of goods or services between those parties is brought about by some means other than by preventing or disrupting the supply of goods or services by or to any other person than a party to such contract."

In the instant case the contract concerned was the charter. The employers who were parties to the trade dispute were the shipowners. The charter was a contract for the supply of services, to which the shipowners and the charterers alone were parties.

The shipowners were not parties to any subsisting contract with the tugmen. The tugmen were the employers under the contract of

employment, and the prevention or disruption of the supply of goods or services by or to any other person than a party to such contract."

Their Lordships dismissed an appeal from the Attorney General of New Zealand with costs.

The evidence also established a prima facie case of the common law tort, referred to in section 13(2) and (3) of the 1974 Act (the "genus immunity"), of interfering with the performance of a contract by doing unlawful acts.

The first requirement was two-fold, (1) knowledge of the existence of the contract concerned and (2) intention to interfere with its performance. As respects knowledge, there could hardly have been anyone better informed than ITF as to the terms of the sort of contracts under which ships were employed, particularly those tying tugs to a trade dispute to break their contracts of employment.

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RACING

Fixture list for the 1983 cricket season

April

22-23 FIRST-CLASS MATCHES
Cambridge: Cambridge University v Leicestershire
Oxford: Oxford University v Lancashire
27-28 MCC MATCHES
Lord's: MCC v Middlesex
Cambridge: Cambridge University v Essex
Oxford: Oxford University v Somerset
30-31 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP
Dorset: Dorsetshire v Gloucestershire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Glamorgan
Leicester: Leicestershire v Hampshire
Londonderry: Northern Ireland v Ulster
Loughborough: Warwickshire v Somerset
The Oval: Surrey v Kent
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire
Worcester: Worcestershire v Yorkshire
30 OTHER MATCH
Oxford: Oxford University v Sussex

May

1 OTHER MATCH
Nottingham: Nottinghamshire v Gloucestershire (one day)

4 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Essex
Edinburgh: Scotland v Derbyshire
Leicester: Leicestershire v Derbyshire
Lord's: Middlesex v Lancashire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Hampshire
Taunton: Somerset v Warwickshire

20 OTHER MATCH
Oxford: Oxford University v West Indies (one day, first-class)

22 OTHER MATCH
London: Middlesex v Essex

23 OTHER MATCH
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Israeli pull-out demand by Begin ministers

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The rapidly mounting toll of Israeli deaths and injuries in Lebanon has prompted a minority inside the coalition Cabinet to try to press the Begin Government to try to stage a unilateral withdrawal to the new front line extending approximately 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Israel's border.

Any such move would effectively partition Lebanon into zones of Israeli and Syrian influence, and leave Israeli troops and their Christian militia allies in control of the security zone which Israel has been demanding since negotiations on troop withdrawal opened last December.

It is reliably understood that the Israeli defence establishment has already drawn up detailed contingency plans for such a limited pull-back.

The campaign in the Cabinet, which is being led by Mr Mordechai Ben-Porat Minister without Portfolio, intensified yesterday after the killing of two more young Israeli officers in a clash with Palestinian guerrillas who attempted to infiltrate from Syrian held territory near the Beirut-Damascus highway on Wednesday. All four guerrillas were killed.

Last night the military command disclosed that another Israeli soldier had been killed in a guerrilla ambush near the devastated Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyah.

It was the first time this year that the Israeli Army had lost three men in Lebanon in a 24-hour period.

Mr Ben-Porat, who claims to have already secured the support of four other ministers, including Mr Aharon Uzan, Minister of Labour, argued that the attack underscored the need for Israel to consider only its own security needs in Lebanon. He added that a unilateral pull-back to the 50-kilometre line was more urgent than ever.

The minister will attempt to persuade the Cabinet to debate his controversial proposal when it meets again next Sunday. He is suggesting an immediate Israeli withdrawal from the Shouf mountains - the scene of regular skirmishes between Christian and Druze militia - to a line which would be marked by the Al Awali river.

Before his remarks were publicised, Israeli military experts reported independently that such a plan was already

under consideration for use if the tripartite negotiations failed to reach a satisfactory agreement on Israeli security requirements.

In outlining his scheme, Mr Ben-Porat was critical of the role being played by the Reagan Administration, which he accused of being prepared to abandon Israel's security interests in order to further America's position in the Middle East.

It is known that a number of senior ministers are sympathetic to the idea of a partial pull-back, although it would require an Israeli military presence inside Southern Lebanon for an indefinite period.

The Government is not unhappy to see the subject being raised at present, as it is deemed likely to pressure the Lebanese to accept more of Israel's security demands.

The killing of the Israeli soldiers has increased calls for a unilateral pull-back to the proposed security zone from Opposition spokesmen in Israel.

Mr Amnon Rubenstein, leader of the left-wing Shasim party, yesterday added his voice to the campaign and Mr Gad Ya'acobi, a Labour member of the Knesset, called on his party to consider adopting the idea of Opposition policy.

Mr Yossi Sarid, a leading Labour deputy, claimed that Israel was now paying "daily in blood" for no political security or political gains in Lebanon.

Before news of the latest killings had reached Israel, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the former Labour Prime Minister, said that he was against a complete Israeli pull-out but not against the idea of a partial retreat.

Mr Rabin told a conference of kibbutz members: "If it appears that the talks are bogged down hopelessly, then we should fall back from the Shouf mountains to a line 45 kilometres from our northern settlements, and tell the Lebanese to bust their own heads on the problem."

In diplomatic circles, there are fears that any such Israeli move would increase the potential for renewed conflict with Syria. Signs have been multiplying ominously in recent weeks that military preparations are under way in Syria, but the Israeli Government claims it is not yet clear whether they are offensive or defensive in nature,



Heavy cranes searching the rubble of the American Embassy in Beirut three days after the blast. They uncovered nine more bodies, bringing the total death toll to 47. (Witness freed, page 6)

Thatcher keeps party in doubt over poll date

Continued from page 1

yesterday, still have no notion of whether her preference is for a June or an October election. Sir Geoffrey Howe was said yesterday to be curious to know the source of confident reports that he himself favours June. It is not denied, however, that he does.

The Chancellor impressed those who have been in his company recently with his genuine confidence that the domestic economy is mending. The retail price figures for March to be published today, are expected again to show an annual inflation rate of less than 5 per cent.

Labour campaign, page 2
Parliamentary report, page 4

BL attempts to break strike

Continued from page 1

management would be reacted. It was considered likely, however, that further talks aimed at averting that prospect could take place over the weekend.

The unions have told the management that they will want to speak to the company once the result of the mass meeting is known. Local officials of the TGWU and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers will urge the strikers not to bow to pressure from the company.

As part of their strategy to increase pressure on the strikers BL sent out letters to all those involved urging them to vote today for a return to work.

It became apparent last night that the two sides were close to reaching agreement at one stage

during the 16 hours of talks, but the gulf widened as the BL executives refused to concede union requests that the three minutes washing time at the end of each morning and afternoon shift should be either retained or bought out.

The company offered to extend the deadline for ending the washing time from May 16 to May 30 and repeated its proposal to extend a company-wide bonus calculating system to the Cowley assembly plant which would have raised the ceiling for bonus earnings from £18.75 a week to £30.

● Motorists have started to cancel orders for the Maestros produced before the strike. Of those it is estimated that about 8,000 remain unsold. On paper that is sufficient for about one month's cover. In practice as soon as showroom selections are reduced, sales are lost.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips visit Japan; depart from Heathrow airport 1.10.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, attends the annual dinner of the Medical Women's Federation, Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York, 7.30.

Prince Michael of Kent attends Standard Telephone and Cables -

Annual General Meeting, Chartered Insurance Institute, 20 Aldermanbury, London, 12.10.

Exhibitions in progress

Paintings and drawings by Australian artist, Moslyn Bramley, Macmillan Art Gallery, Birmingham Square, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5.

Experimental photography, Museum and Art Gallery, 78 George Street, Perth; Mon to Sat 10 to 1, 2 to 5 (until April 30).

Jugs, Jars and Jollyboys -

Tradition in English Pottery, Whitworth Art Gallery, Whitworth Park, Manchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 9, Closed Sun, (until May 7).

The Revival of Dutch Ceramics, Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until May 7).

Coal: British Mining in Art 1980, Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until May 1).

Peoples History of Yorkshire, Ferens Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Square, Hull; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 4.30; (until May 8).

Last chance to see -

Design for a New Gallery: entries in an architectural competition for the National Museum, Durham University, 82 New Cavendish Street, Durham; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 9.30 to 4; (ends tomorrow).

Work by artists from Nicholas Treadwell Gallery in London, Museum and Art Gallery, Newmarket; Gwent: Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4; (ends tomorrow).

Marine paintings and watercolours by Timothy Thompson, James Atkinson Gillies, 38 King Street, Sandwich, Kent; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed; Sun; (ends tomorrow).

West Country Scene: Paintings, drawings and prints over two centuries, New Gallery, Abels Tree House, 9 Fore Street, Badgely Salterton, Devon; Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30; (ends tomorrow).

Porcelain and stoneware by Bernard Forrester; rags and wall hangings by Sue Mace; Eighty Eight Glass, 108 High Street, Totnes, Devon; Mon to Sat 10 to 1 & 2 to 5, closed Sun & Thurs afternoons; (ends tomorrow).

Music -

Concert by Sir Henry Fielding, Sharpness Park, Somersett, 1797; Immortal Kant, philosopher, Königsberg, Germany, 1724; Madame de Staél, writer, Paris, 1766; A. C. Grayson, polymath, Birmingham, USSR, 1881; Kathleen Ferrier, singer, Higher Walton, Lancashire, 7.30.

Piano recital by Alan Schiller, Assembly Hall, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn, 7.30.

Star recital by Dharanir Singh, Scott Hall, Leicester, 7.30.

Concert by Hall Orchestra, City Hall, Sheffield, 7.30.

Talks, lectures -

The Case for a Bill of Rights for Britain, by Lord Scarman, Faraday Building, Bristol, Lancaster University, 1.30.

General -

Horn of England Craft Market, Arts Centre Hall, University of Warwick, Coventry, 12 to 6 (10 to 6 tomorrow, 10 to 5 Sun),

Parliament today -

Commons (9.30): Private members' Bills: Disease of Fish Bill, remaining stage. Young Persons' Rights Bill, second reading.

EUROPEAN UNION -

Commons (10.30): European Economic Community Bill, third reading.

DEFENCE -

Commons (10.30): Nuclear Test Ban Bill, second reading.

DEFENCE -

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DEFENCE -

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davall

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM: News headlines, weather, sport and traffic details. This service is also available with any television set that does not have the Teletext facility.

6.30 Breakfast Time presented by Nick Ross and Selina Scott. The items include news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30. Headlines on the quarter hour, and regional news and traffic information at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15.

12.30 News After Noon and weather prospects. 12.57 Financial report. And sub-titled news headlines.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One: the lunchtime music and interview show from the foyer studio; today's edition includes Peter Seabrook's regular gardening item, *Dig This*, 1.45 Petman, Pat's delightful puppet story for children.

2.00 International Tennis live action in the State Express Classic at West Hants Club. Bournemouth. The coverage transfers to BBC 2 at 3.30.

This is quarter-finals day. Former champions in action include Manuel Orantes who will be defending his title.

3.55 Play School today's story can also be seen on BBC 2 at 11.00. *Clouds in the Morning*, 3.20. The New Schmoker cartoon, 4.40. Playhouse: *The Blacksmith's Son*. Starring Anne Louise Lambert and Andrew Burt. The story of a blacksmith's son who loves a princess (r).

5.05 Breakthrough: John Craven tells the story of Edwin Chadwick, a young civil servant who back in Victorian days, battled to introduce new laws that would ensure clean water and proper drains in cities where cholera claimed many lives. John Craven also visits the largest sewage works in Europe and follows the sledge boats out to the North Sea. 3.35 Rocbarb (r).

5.40 News: 6.00 South East at Six. 6.22 Nationwide includes Desmond Lynam with Sportsline at 6.45. (See Choice)

7.00 The Good Life. Relying too heavily on muscle power, Tom (Richard Briers) strains his back. But Barbara's (Felicity Kendal) appeal for help at the local pub meets with little luck (r).

7.30 Odd Man Out. The return of Paul Daniels' hugely popular word game that is trickier than most. The winner of each show returns to compete with a fresh team the following week.

8.00 The Time of Your Life. For the next 13 weeks, Noel Edmonds will be asking famous people to recall a magical moment in their lives. Tonight is the turn of Vidal Sassoon, hairdresser extraordinaire. With contributions from Mary Quant, Jimi Hendrix, David Jacobs, Adrienne Posta, Pete Murray and Roy Castle.

8.30 Are You Being Served? Return of the department store comedy. Mrs. Sirly (Julia Sinden) invents a perfume that is supposed to have a shattering effect on the opposite sex.

9.00 News and weekend weather. 9.25 Cagney and Lacey: A new recruit to the New York police force runs into trouble during a murder investigation.

10.15 Isles Apart: The Channel Islands. Andrew Cooper's film of life during a summer when he got away from it all. 10.45 News.

10.50 Film: Diary of a Mad Housewife (1970). Clever comedy about a bored wife (Carole Snodgrass) who looks for excitement in an affair. Co-starring Richard Benjamin and Frank (Dracula) Langella. Directed by Frank Perry. Ends at 12.30am.

TV-am

6.00 Daybreak: with Gavin Scott, followed at 6.30 by Good Morning Britain (with Linda Barnet and Nick Owen). Items include news at 6.00, 6.20, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00 and 9.15. City news at 6.15. Morning paper at 6.20. Sport at 6.40 and 7.30. Television reviews and previews at 7.50. Guest celebrity at 8.20. Money Talks at 8.30 and Michael Barry's Crafty Cooking at 9.05. Closedown at 9.15.

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ITV/LONDON

9.30 Sesame Street with The Muppets, 10.35 The Poseidon Fleets' Mysteries of the Polar Seas: men in danger of freezing to death, 11.30 Film Fun: Cartoon compilation, presented by Derek Griffiths (r).

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CH4

A SMALL DESPERATION (BBC 2, 9.30pm). Peter Lowe's 35-minute two-hander set in the head's study of a comprehensive school, has a twist in its tail. It must be very careful indeed not to imply what it is and how it affects the two characters - the head (Freddie Francis) who is about to retire, and the head boy (Robert Burbridge) who is about to go to Balliol. What I can safely reveal is that the lad has written a scandalous novel, set in a comprehensive school; that the fictitious characters in the book are remarkably similar to the real-life staff at the school; and that the pupil appears to be indulging in a cat-and-mouse game with the head after he refuses to consider giving the book a "plug" during his valedictory address. There is an ambiguity about the denouement that left several

veteran brows, including mine, deeply furrowed at the Press preview. It is an entertaining if implausible play, and by far the best thing it offers is yet another chance to study the skilful way Freddie Jones stakes on the thin ice of eccentricity without actually cracking the surface.

NATIONWIDE (BBC 1, 6.22pm) reports on a twentieth century phenomenon: the kidnapping of children by their parents. Quite illegal, of course, but done in what the parents claim is an unchallengeable cause - tearing the youngsters back from the clutches of the Moones. Nationwide has already devoted two editions to

investigating the cult experience and the results, to put it mildly, have been controversial. The case histories of two troubled families are examined tonight. One ended happily, the other did not. Also interviewed is the man who, from being number two with the Moones in Canada, is now firmly on the side of the kidnapping parents.

Radio highlights: SO WE ALL GOT SOMEWHERE (Radio 3, 8.05pm), a poetry compilation with relatives as its theme, swings amusingly, wistfully, sadly, affectionately and gruesomely between widely spaced polarities of style and mood. It makes an excellent introduction to tonight's National Orchestra concert (7.30 and 8.25) consisting of Imogen Cooper playing Mozart's piano concerto No 21, and Mahler's Symphony No 1.

CHOICE (BBC 1, 9.30pm) is a programme for the over-50s. It features a variety of music, including classical, jazz, blues, rock and roll, and some of the best songs from the last 50 years. The programme is presented by Ray Charles in Jazz on Four (Channel 4, 8.30pm).

Radio 3
6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert. Parry, Dussek, Vaughan Williams, records.
8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert (continued) Mendelssohn, Boyce, Saint-Saens, Schubert, Grainger: records.
9.00 News.
This Week's Composer: Schumann: records.
10.00 Brahms and Bach: Violin and Piano recital.
10.40 Men and Mountains: Barwick, Mendelssohn, Rossini, Purcell: records.
11.40 Radio 3 Concert: BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, Part 1. Tchaikovsky, Falla.

1.00 2.05 Contests.
1.20 Midday Concert: Part 2: Divorsé, Four Spanish Musicians.
Ricardo Vines, the pianist. The British Symphony Orchestra.
3.00 Choral Evensong from the Chapel of Magdalen College, Oxford.
4.00 Radio 3 Concert: BBC National Orchestra of Wales.
5.00 Music for Pleasure!
5.30 Music for Guitar: Salvador Barcarroza, Turnie, Oscar Espla, Maurice Charas, Leonore Balada.
7.00 Songs by Obraztsov and Turina. First half: National Orchestra.
7.30 Part 1, Mozart.
8.05 So We All Got Somewhere. Sequence of poetry readings.
8.57 Radio 3 Concert: BBC National Orchestra of Wales.
9.30 Camerata Musical: Music from Renaissance Spain at the time of Ferdinand and Isabella (inc. 12.15-20pm).
11.15 ONLY - OPEN UNIVERSITY: 6.15 am Hume's 'Enquiry' 6.35-6.55. Instruments and their Music. 11.20-11.40 pm Welfare from Above.

Radio 2
5.00 Ray Moore's 7.30 Terry Wogan from Munich; 7.30 Alan Whicker.
12.00 Music While You Work 1.20.30 Glynis Hurnford 1 including 2.02 Sports Desk. 2.00 Ed Stewart 1 including 3.02 All times in GMT

BBC 2**CHANNEL 4**

6.05 Open University: Maths methods. 6.30 Chemistry: spectroscopy, 5.55 Materials Processing: metal, 7.20 pm. Physics: Using computers; 7.45 About Frequency: Frequency and Energy; 8.10.

11.00 Play School: July Whitfield's and Michael Sullivan's story Question Mark (also on BBC 1, at 3.55).

1.00 News: 1.20 Thomas area news; 1.30 About Britain: Postcard of Sutherland: Ian Cuthbertson narrates this Scottish countryside film.

2.00 A Plus: with the 93-year-old abstract painter Paula Rego whose exhibition is on show at the Tate Gallery.

2.30 Racing from Sandown. We see the 2.35, 3.10 (Sandown Cup) and the 3.40.

4.00 Children's TV: Rainbow (r); 4.20, Dangerous; 4.25 Animals in Action: Birds of Prey, Eagles, hawks, falcons etc; 4.30 Freebie: A 14-year-old Sheffield schoolboy, Alan Johnson, has updated Little Red Riding Hood. Plus the self-adaptors of Middlesbrough.

5.15 Make Me Laugh: Chuckle-raising contest, with Berne Winter.

5.45 News; 6.00 The 6 o'clock Show: Michael Aspel, Janet Street-Porter and Co look on the lighter side of life.

7.00 Family Fortunes: The Leas from Worthing, Sussex versus the Steckleys from Leicester. With Bob Monkhouse as MC.

7.30 Hawaii Five-O: Steve McQueen is at the mercy of an armed escaped convict. What is worse, he is injured.

8.30 Pig in the Middle: Final programme in this triangular romantic comedy series starring Liza Goddard, Joanne van Giesephe and Terence Brady.

9.00 Death of an Expert Witness: Episode 3 in the adaptation (by Robin Chapman) of the P. D James mystery thriller starring Roy Marsden as Adam Dalgleish of the Yard who now has a second Fermanagh murder on his hands. And Lorimer (Geoffrey Palmer), frustrated on two counts, vents his anger on the staff at the forensic laboratory.

10.30 The London Programmes: What has happened to the glue-sniffing youngsters who featured in a worrying edition of the Look Out program a year ago? Tonight we find out. The results suggest that this dangerous, sometimes lethal, habit is still not being taken seriously enough. One of the youngsters seen in the original programme has since committed suicide. Doctors and MPs appear to be prompted by

9.30 A Small Desperation: Comedy for two actors (Freddie Francis and Robert Burbridge), written by Peter Lowe, and set in a comprehensive school. First heard on BBC radio nearly two years ago. (See Choices)

10.05 World Snooker: Live coverage of the second-round matches in the Embassy World Professional Championship.

11.00 Shoot Pooft: The third match in the John Bull Bitter London Pool Championships from the Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre. Tonight's contestants are Shaun Banks, Mc Dermott and Mick Voices.

11.35 Snooker: Last visit of the day to Sheffield.

12.15 Old Grey Whistle Test: with David Hepworth and Mark Elen. The guests are Pale Fountains and Big Country. Plus Neil Young on video. Ends at 12.55.

ROYAL COURT (BBC 1, 9.30pm) is a production by Michael Frayn, directed by Peter Hall, with Judi Dench, Ian McKellen, Simon Callow and Ian Holm.

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Israeli pull-out demand by Begin ministers

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The rapidly mounting toll of Israeli deaths and injuries in Lebanon has prompted a minority inside the coalition Cabinet to try to press the Begin Government to try to stage a unilateral withdrawal to the new front line extending approximately 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Israel's border.

Any such move would effectively partition Lebanon into zones of Israeli and Syrian influence, and leave Israeli troops and their Christian militia allies in control of the security zone which Israel has been demanding since negotiations on troop withdrawal opened last December.

It is reliably understood that the Israeli defence establishment has already drawn up detailed contingency plans for such a limited pull-back.

The campaign in the Cabinet, which is being led by Mr Mordechai Ben-Porat Minister without Portfolio, intensified yesterday after the killing of two more young Israeli officers in a clash with Palestinian guerrillas who attempted to infiltrate from Syrian held territory near the Beirut-Damascus highway on Wednesday. All four guerrillas were killed.

Last night the military command disclosed that another Israeli soldier had been killed in a guerrilla ambush near the devastated Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyah.

It was the first time this year that the Israeli Army had lost three men in Lebanon in a 24-hour period.

Mr Ben-Porat, who claims to have already secured the support of four other ministers, including Mr Aharon Uzan, Minister of Labour, argued that the attack underscored the need for Israel to consider only its own security needs in Lebanon. He added that a unilateral pull-back to the 50-kilometre line was more urgent than ever.

The minister will attempt to persuade the Cabinet to debate his controversial proposal when it meets again next Sunday. He is suggesting an immediate Israeli withdrawal from the Shouf mountains - the scene of regular skirmishes between Christian and Druze militia - to a line which would be marked by the Al Awali river.

Before his remarks were publicised, Israeli military experts reported independently that such a plan was already

under consideration for use if the tripartite negotiations failed to reach a satisfactory agreement on Israeli security requirements.

In outlining his scheme, Mr Ben-Porat was critical of the role being played by the Reagan Administration, which he accused of being prepared to abandon Israel's security interests in order to further America's position in the Middle East.

It is known that a number of senior ministers are sympathetic to the idea of a partial pull-back, although it would require an Israeli military presence inside Southern Lebanon for an indefinite period.

The Government is not unhappy to see the subject being raised at present, as it is deemed likely to pressure the Lebanese to accept more of Israel's security demands.

The killing of the Israeli soldiers has increased calls for a unilateral pull-back to the proposed security zone from Opposition spokesmen in Israel.

Mr Amnon Rubenstein, leader of the left-wing Shasim party, yesterday added his voice to the campaign and Mr Gad Ya'acobi, a Labour member of the Knesset, called on his party to consider adopting the idea of Opposition policy.

Mr Yossi Sarid, a leading Labour deputy, claimed that Israel was now paying "daily in blood" for no political security or political gains in Lebanon.

Before news of the latest killings had reached Israel, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the former Labour Prime Minister, said that he was against a complete Israeli pull-out but not against the idea of a partial retreat.

Mr Rabin told a conference of kibbutz members: "If it appears that the talks are bogged down hopelessly, then we should fall back from the Shouf mountains to a line 45 kilometres from our northern settlements, and tell the Lebanese to bust their own heads on the problem."

In diplomatic circles, there are fears that any such Israeli move would increase the potential for renewed conflict with Syria. Signs have been multiplying ominously in recent weeks that military preparations are under way in Syria, but the Israeli Government claims it is not yet clear whether they are offensive or defensive in nature,



Heavy cranes searching the rubble of the American Embassy in Beirut three days after the blast. They uncovered nine more bodies, bringing the total death toll to 47. (Witness freed, page 6)

Thatcher keeps party in doubt over poll date

Continued from page 1

yesterday, still have no notion of whether her preference is for a June or an October election. Sir Geoffrey Howe was said yesterday to be curious to know the source of confident reports that he himself favours June. It is not denied, however, that he does.

The Chancellor impressed those who have been in his company recently with his genuine confidence that the domestic economy is mending. The retail price figures for March to be published today, are expected again to show an annual inflation rate of less than 5 per cent.

Labour campaign, page 2
Parliamentary report, page 4

BL attempts to break strike

Continued from page 1

management would be reacted. It was considered likely, however, that further talks aimed at averting that prospect could take place over the weekend.

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● Motorists have started to cancel orders for the Maestros because the dealers have run out of stocks or cannot supply their choice of model and colour (Clifford Webb writes).

At the same time there is mounting criticism by dealers of the BL management's timing for such an obviously controversial issue as the abolition of "washing up" time at Cowley.

However, the biggest worry is the effect of the lost production on Austin Rover sales in the boom month of August which regularly accounts for one-fifth of all cars sold annually. If the strike ends quickly BL will be hard pressed to meet existing demand, let alone begin stockpiling.

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Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips visit Japan; depart from Heathrow airport 1.10.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, attends the annual dinner of the Medical Women's Federation, Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York, 7.30.

Prince Michael of Kent attends Standard Telephone and Cables -

Annual General Meeting, Chartered Insurance Institute, 20 Aldermanbury, London, 12.10.

Exhibitions in progress

Paintings and drawings by Australian artist, Moslyn Bramley, MacRobert Arts Centre, Stirling University, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5.

Experimental photography, Museum and Art Gallery, 78 George Street, Perth, Mon to Sat 10 to 1, 2 to 5 (until April 30).

Jugs, Jars and Jollyboys -

Tradition in English Pottery, Whitworth Art Gallery, Whitworth Park, Manchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 9, Closed Sun, (until May 7).

The Revival of Dutch Ceramics, Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until May 7).

Coal: British Mining in Art 1980, Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until May 1).

Peoples History of Yorkshire, Ferens Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Square, Hull; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 4.30; (until May 8).

Last chance to see -

Design for a New Gallery: entries in an architectural competition for the Oriental Museum, Durham University, 82 New Cavendish Street, Durham; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 9.30 to 4; (ends tomorrow).

Work by artists from Nicholas Treadwell Gallery in London, Museum and Art Gallery, Newmarket; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 4; (ends tomorrow).

Marine paintings and watercolours by Timothy Thompson, James Atkinson Gallery, 38 King Street, Sandwich, Kent; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun; (ends tomorrow).

West Country Scene Paintings, drawings and prints over two centuries, New Gallery, Abels Tree House, 9 Fore Street, Badgely Salterton, Devon; Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30; (ends tomorrow).

Porcelain and stoneware by Bernard Forrester; rags and wall hangings by Sue Mace; Eighty Eight Glass, 108 High Street, Totnes, Devon; Mon to Sat 10 to 1 & 2 to 5, closed Sun & Thurs afternoons; (ends tomorrow).

Music -

Concert by Sir Henry Fielding, Sharpness Park, Somersett, 1797; Immortal Kant, philosopher, Königsberg, Germany, 1724; Madame de Staél, writer, Paris, 1766; Aida, Verdi, Milan, 1871; Symphony, Simbirsky, USSR, 1881; Kathie Furtwängler, singer, Higher Walton, Lancashire, 7.30.

Faith: John Crome, landscape painter, Norwich, 1821; Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Prime Minister 1905-08, London, 1908; The Royal Society received its charter from Charles II, 1662.

Talks, lectures -

The Case for a Bill of Rights for Britain, by Lord Scarman, Faraday Building, Barts, Queen Mary's University, London, 1.30.

General -

Horn of England Craft Market, Arts Centre Hall, University of Warwick, Coventry, 12 to 6 (10 to 6 tomorrow, 10 to 5 Sun),

Parliament today -

Commons (9.30): Private members' Bills: Disease of Fish Bill, remaining stage. Young Persons' Rights Bill, second reading.

DOWN

1 After one round, go here for another? (10.4).

2 Hero, we reckon, not altogether Leader's type? (5).

3 An event he's organized from above? (4-6).

4 Novel bridge partnership (5,3,5).

5 City requires replacement for old man on board? (9).

10 Vote against annual treat for workers? (5).

11 Anguish of cast heard but not seen? (5).

12 Cause of dispute could be funny (4).

13 Check ancestral line (4).

15 Overseas post - letters in steamship, maybe? (7).

17 Brave fellow finishing race in novel circumstances? (7).

18 Almost joining Edward in royal position? (7).

20 Insectivore is unable to endure decapitation? (3-4).

21 Ruler to set course in crisis? (4).

22 Fly back sound as a bell? (4).

23 Girl reverse major road sign? (5).

24 Put out the 51 port? (5).

25 Instrument a proud father's delighted to hear? (4,5).

26 Cricketers painted by Rembrandt? (5-8).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,109

PLACELISTEDKA
MENONIADROADS
ANONFORMDPE
LOSGRENCHICKISH
YVIBRANALOG
MARRIEASTWARD
TINILECCE
TENANTSIMMORAL
ESTATEGILB
LATITUDERONGLY
SECOPIEVITAT
EXANTCUNISTER
SYRASHINAFIR
WMAINTACTED

THE TIMES

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CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Food prices

Shoppers who complain that they can no longer afford beef should take a look at boneless round steaks. They can have the same weight of meat for less, taste when thinly sliced, are easy to cook; the meat will retain its juices if left with the fat side upwards. Prices this week range from £1.84 to £2.75 a pound. Seasonal supply factors have pushed up lamb prices: Sainsbury's new season whole leg is £2.18 a pound, but Safeway have English whole shoulder at £1.09. Pork is still probably the best buy: Dewhurst has whole legs from 76p to £1.10 and boneless steaks from 85p to £1.25. But the best buy of the week is bacon: Wetherspoon's 45p a pound is better value than 50p a pound. Safeway bacon joints are reduced by 23p a pound, and Fine Fare have fresh chicken at 54p a pound.

Spring cabbages are excellent at 20-30p a pound, and English spring greens are another good buy at 14-24p. English and Italian carrots at 10-14p a pound are very good value. Lettuce is £1.25 a head. Radishes are £0.10 a pound. Asparagus is £1.25 a pound this week, up 50p, and the small ones from Lincolnshire are particularly recommended. English Cos and Webb lettuces are just arriving in the shops at 30p to 40p each.

Cape black Baulkha grapes are really good at 60-75p a pound, and there is plenty of English natural rhubarb at 18-26p. Apples include Star Crimson and Star King, both crisp and easy to eat at 30p to 40p a half pound punnet are cheap for the time of year.

Information supplied by the AA.

Spring onions are £0.10 a bunch, and carrots are 10p a bunch.

Onions are £0.10 a bunch, and leeks are 10p a bunch.

Broccoli is £0.15 a head, and Brussels sprouts are 10p a head.

Carrots are 10p a bunch, and parsnips are 10p a bunch.

Turnips are 10p a bunch, and swede is 10p a bunch.

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